



# ARAB TIMES



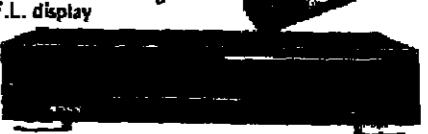
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**Egypt, Ireland draw 0-0; Spain over South Korea 3-1; Belgium beat Uruguay 3-1**

## Ministers to stand trial for crimes against security

AN Amiri Decree places ministers on trial in the eventuality they are cited for crimes against state security, failing to honour their public responsibilities, misappropriating their offices, to circumvent judicial procedures, as well as bringing dispute to the elections of members of the National Assembly or the National Council.

Ministers, if indicted, will be tried by the Supreme Judicial Council on the recommendation of the relevant Amiri Decree.

The text of the decree, published yesterday in the official gazette (Kuwait Al Youm) stipulates that if a minister is indicted, he is liable to lose his ministerial position, including incurring all judicial penalties.

The trial to be held by a higher court will comprise five members selected by the Supreme Judicial Council from among the Kuwaiti chancellors, including two other stand-by members who will be selected in the eventuality if the original members fail to appear.

Within the framework of Article 18, the decree stipulates that the trial will be conducted in camera and indictments will be ratified when four members vote in favour. This sentence will be irrevocable — with the provision that such sentence would not be enforced due to the accused being tried in absentia.

Additionally, it will also be possible to request for a reconsideration of the indictment sentence based on a request by the public prosecutor, the defendant or his heirs.

provided new evidence or documents are submitted which were not introduced at the first hearing.

Under Article 15, the minister will be deprived from parliamentary immunity and suspended from his official duties in the eventuality he is referred to judicial investigation.

Under Article 7, the decree stipulates that the Supreme Judicial Council will be selected

within a maximum period of three days, including an ad-hoc questioning panel comprising three chancellors selected from the chancellors of the courts of cassation and appeal.

According to Article 8, the panel will conduct all its deliberations in secrecy and will requisition evidence from all government agencies. The panel will complete its findings and submit their report to the Supreme Judicial Council which will transmit the same

within two months from the date of the committee's formation to HH the Amir.

Under Article 9, the council will be required to select the members of the high court within a maximum period of ten days from the date on which the indictment decision was referred to it.

Under Article 10, the chairman of the court will set a date to look into the legal implications of the case which should not exceed thirty days from the date of the decree.

## Massive Kashmir demo

**India vows to fight for every inch of land**

**SRINAGAR, June 17. (Agencies):** Thousands of Kashmiris staged anti-India demonstrations in strife-torn Srinagar during a 12-hour relaxation in a curfew today, as police reported separatist violence left six more people dead and six wounded.

No incidents were reported despite the presence of armed paramilitary units in the state capital of 600,000.

In Srinagar's Nawa Kadal area, about 2,000 people gathered at the main market to demand that all paramilitary forces be withdrawn from the city.

Indian security forces stood guard nearby but took no action as the demonstrators shouted anti-army slogans. They dispersed after about two hours.

But in the Rajwari Kadal market, where another 2,000 people chanted "go home Indian soldiers" and "we want freedom," about 30 members of a paramilitary force unit pointed guns at the crowd and demanded they disperse.

"We were not there to be frightened," said Mohammad Iqbal, a cloth merchant. "We stayed and registered our protest."

The protesters, taking advantage of a 12-hour curfew relaxation that began at 6 am, finally broke up so they could attend mid-day Muslim prayers.

**...Take you there**

It was Madonna's show and Wener Beatty tagged along for the ride. Their off-screen romance has apparently cooled. Reportedly Madonna and Beatty have gone their separate ways after co-starring in the new film 'Dick Tracy,' and rumours claim Madonna waved goodbye first.

**Details Page 15**

### Conspiracy verdict due as Amnesty says thanks

THE State Security Court will issue its verdict against four Kuwaitis accused of conspiring against the regime.

The four defendants are: Sayed Mohammed Bader Sayed Abbas Al Mousawi alias Al Malmi, Faisal Abdul Hadi Al Malmood, Waled Majed Sayed Reda Al Mazzeh and Abdul Hamed Abdur Karim Al Saffar.

The trial commenced on May 12 of this year with an open session. Subsequent sessions were deliberated behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International has thanked the Kuwaiti government for helping it investigate alleged human rights abuses, officials reported on Sunday.

A delegation from the London-based human rights group visited Kuwait last month and discussed the case of Al Mousawi, who they said was arrested in September and held without trial for months.

Amnesty representatives were allowed to attend the first two hearings of the otherwise closed trial.

**Manila rebels kill 7:** Seven people were killed in Philippines when communist guerrillas ambushed a jeep carrying government troops in a remote village on Negros island, the military said.

**Queen seeks jobs:** Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says. (Reuters)

**(Details Page 5)**



**Hirawi due in Kuwait:** Lebanese President Elias Hirawi will pay an official visit to Kuwait next Saturday, it was announced yesterday.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad welcomed the visit of the Lebanese president, hoping for Lebanon peace and stability after the 16 years of civil war. (Kuna)

**Oman, Bulgaria establish ties:** The Gulf Sultanate of Oman and Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations immediately and exchange ambassadors, the official Omani news agency said. (Reuters)

**Manila rebels kill 7:** Seven people were killed in Philippines when communist guerrillas ambushed a jeep carrying government troops in a remote village on Negros island, the military said.

**Queen seeks jobs:** Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says. (Reuters)

**(Details Page 5)**

**Rolls Royce for goal**

ABU DHABI, June 17. (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates player who scored his team's only goal in a 5-1 defeat by West Germany in the World Cup yesterday will get a Rolls Royce.

UAE newspaper quoted forward Khalid Ismail as saying he had been promised the car by local auto dealer Khalid Al Habtoor.

Ismail became national hero for scoring the goal against one of the strongest teams in the world.

### Sharon, Eitan join war panel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17. (AP): Israel's right-wing cabinet today gave former generals Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan their biggest say in military policy since both were reprimanded for their actions in the 1982 Sabra and Chatilla massacre.

At its first meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet named former defence minister Sharon and Eitan, chief of staff during the Lebanon invasion, to the 11-man ministerial defence committee.

Both Sharon and Eitan were blamed by an Israeli inquiry for not anticipating that Israel's Christian militia allies would massacre hundreds of Palestinians if they were allowed to enter Beirut's Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps in 1982.

Sharon, a leader in Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, was also named chairman of a cabinet committee overseeing the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. Sharon is a champion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

News last week that he would lead the immigration drive raised fears that he would try to move Soviet Jews to the occupied areas, worsening already tense ties with the United States. US policy considers the Jewish settlements obstacles to peace.

Israeli officials insisted anew, meanwhile, that the new cabinet would work for peace with Palestinians and for a smoother relationship with the United States.

"This government is interested in the peace process no less than the preceding government," said Police Minister Roni Milo, a Likud member and close Shamir confidant.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

**Bombay paralysed**

A man dries his scooter through a flooded street after heavy monsoon rains which paralysed life in Bombay. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Biggest water slide**

A young Japanese girl is all screams as she charges down the world's biggest water slide on an air-filled sleigh with her boyfriend at Tokyo's Toshimaen amusement park. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Lanka truce breaks

COLOMBO, June 17. (Reuters): Tamil separatist guerrillas and government troops clashed in northeast Sri Lanka today, breaking a fragile day-old ceasefire, security sources said.

Two soldiers and a civilian were killed in fighting that broke out after the ceasefire went into effect at 6 pm (1230 GMT) yesterday, following five days of fighting that killed more than 400 people.

The sources said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels fired at several army camps in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. These attacks were repulsed without casualties.

They said a soldier was killed at Mutur, east of Trincomalee, and another died at Vavuniya in the north. Both incidents occurred after the ceasefire went into effect.

The sources said a helicopter was damaged in rebel fire at Mankulam in the north.

Residents said a university lecturer was killed when airforce helicopters strafed rebel positions near the town.

Rebels also blew up a bridge in the district last night preventing army reinforcements from reaching the area.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

### Licence issued in Gulf valid in UAE

DUBAI, June 17. (Kuna): The general commander of Dubai police, Brigadier Khalid Dahab, has announced that any driving licence issued by any GCC state would be valid in the UAE.

He elaborated that according to the latest agreement among the GCC traffic directors, the police of Dubai has decided to issue a UAE licence for any driver with a valid driving licence issued by the GCC states regardless of his nationality and without additional tests.

### Nidal faction falls

#### Rashidiyah cleared

TYRE, June 17. (Reuters): Palestinian fighters loyal to Abu Nidal, described by the United States as the world's most wanted terrorist, have been defeated in a battle with dissidents, security sources said today.

They said a breakaway faction trying to topple Abu Nidal from leadership of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) had driven FRC fighters out of the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

Three people killed in the overnight clashes were Abu Nidal loyalists, they said. Twelve wounded fighters, four of them critically ill, were from both sides.

The sources said Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation was backing the breakaway faction, known as the FRC Emergency Command. PLO forces helped transport men and ammunition to dissidents.

The FRC loyalists surrendered their weapons to PLO fighters before being evacuated from Rashidiyah to Sidon.

The internal struggle surfaced last year when two prominent FRC officials defected to Tunis, where the PLO is based, and accused Abu Nidal of killing 150 of his own men.

The Rashidiyah fighting, the first publicised confrontation between the two factions in Lebanon, erupted after a series of assassinations by each side.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, split from the PLO in 1973 and vehemently opposes Arafat's leadership.

The FRC holds four Belgian hostages, among a group seized from a yacht in the Mediterranean in 1987.

### ARAB TIMES Grand Bingo

#### KD 250 must be won

Today is the last day for sending entries and numbers will be drawn from June 20.

# Case of dancing bear raises questions

## A growing animal rights and environmental awareness in India

NEW DELHI, June 17. (UPI): Nasser Khan, a 70-year-old animal trainer, squatted beside his mudbrick home and bitterly recalled the day environmental authorities confiscated Munna the dancing bear.

Khan was about to begin a sidewalk show in front of a movie theater and Munna was ready to entertain — playing the guitar, smoking cigarettes and disco dancing. Then the authorities showed up, accused Khan of mistreating the bear and took Munna to the zoo.

"Without giving me any notice, they snatched my bear," Khan said. "I asked them: 'Don't take away my bear. This is my livelihood. This is my family's source of income. My whole family depends on this bear.'

Khan, a slender man with a lined face and a gray handbar-moustache, ran afoul of a growing animal rights and environmental awareness in India whose

leading proponent is Maneka Gandhi, the minister of state for the environment.

Maneka is the renegade daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, respectively, of former Prime Ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi. Estranged from the family and its traditional power base in the Congress (I) Party, she bolted and accepted a job with the new National Front Government.

Since being named to the cabinet-level post last fall, Maneka has been a tireless advocate for the environment, calling for protection of wildlife and pressing for economic growth that will preserve the nation's natural resources.

She has paid special attention to the treatment of animals, pushing for improved care of wildlife at the New Delhi zoo and urging the humane society to remain open 24 hours a day because of the number of animals

injured by cars at night.

During a recent visit to an animal shelter run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals, she stopped to look at a cow that had been hit by a car while wandering down a busy city street — a common sight in the capital.

The Times of India, which reported on the visit, said one of the officials noticed Maneka looking at the cow and remarked, "too many stray animals on the road."

"No, no," she replied. "Too much traffic."

Such remarks, while perhaps intended to force people to think differently about the environment, have earned Maneka a reputation for being cold and indifferent to the needs of her countrymen, who suffer from widespread poverty and unemployment.

And people like Nasser Khan, who lives in a slum of ramshackle

huts crisscrossed by open sewers, wonder why an environmental crusade has to include a pet bear that provides an income for a large family.

"We don't know why they took Munna. We don't know if they are planning to save wildlife. We can't tell you anything about that," Khansaid. "For us this is a question of bread and butter. This has been our business for generations. We don't have anything else but our bear."

But for officials who deal with the nation's wildlife, the issues are clear. Munna is a sloth bear, an endangered species protected by law. Most likely, they say, he was illegally taken from the wild.

There are only about 500 sloth bears left in the wild in India, living in jungles and feeding on ants, roots and fruits. Fully grown, they can reach a height of about 5-1/2 feet (1.7 m) standing on their hind legs and can weigh

up to 400 pounds (180 kg).

The confiscation of Munna May 1 sparked a controversy in India, where thousands of snake charmers and other street artists scratch out a living by training animals, birds and reptiles to perform for tourists.

Many street artists with trained bears fled the city after Munna's arrest, while others with bears, monkeys, snakes and birds stayed behind and staged protests in front of Parliament. Khan filed a case in the country's high court seeking the bear's return.

But environmental authorities say the bear should not be returned because it has been mistreated. A zoo official said when Munna arrived, his claws had been cut and he had a cataract that left him blind in one eye.

"This poor fellow can't eat," added the official, who asked not to be identified.



An Ohio Army national guardsman looks into wreckage of a car for victims of Thursday's flash flooding in Shady Side, Ohio. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Ohio floods toll 15

## 34 still missing

SHADYSIDE, Ohio, June 17. (AP): Searchers recovered the bodies of four people yesterday, bringing to 15 the confirmed death toll from a flash flood, authorities said. About three dozen people remained missing.

Among the dead was a 5-year-old girl, whose body was found in McMahon creek early yesterday, said Chuck Vogt, Belmont county coroner's investigator. The girl and her six-year-old brother were killed when Thursday night's flood swept their mobile home from its concrete mooring.

Capt. Jim Boling of the Ohio air national guard said the number of people missing was revised yesterday evening to 34. Previous reports from Belmont county authorities had given the numbers as 51.

Ohio emergency management agency spokesman Ned Martin said some of those listed as missing had informed relatives or authorities they were safe. Boling said others found dead may never have been listed as missing.

In all, some 700 rescue workers — including 341 members of the Ohio national guard — are assisting flood victims.

Utility crews and local volunteers using chain saws, axes and shovels cleared the debris of more than 100 homes. A wall of water that washed over the banks of three creeks had destroyed the homes.

Gov. Richard Celeste, who toured the area for the second time yesterday, said he was shocked at the destruction.

"The damage ... was extraordinary. It was something that was beyond what I've seen from tornadoes and floods," he said.

Trucks hauled away stacks of flattened cars found in a gully south of the town. State highway patrol troopers and national guardsmen used dogs to sniff through the rubble and along the banks of the weirs and pipe creeks in Belmont county, looking for survivors or bodies.

# Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

injured two other people, witnesses and family members said.

The attack by the suspected militants marked the first time four members from one extended Hindu family have been killed since the latest episode in the campaign for an independent Kashmir began about six months ago.

Government offices and banks were open but did little business.

In Dhaka, thousands of marchers shouted "down with Ershad" and "tear up the budget" as riot police patrolled nearby.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of an alliance of eight parties that called the strike, said the action was a success.

"Ershad has no right to stay in power. People have rejected the fresh taxes proposed by his government," she said.

The strike focused on the country's new budget, especially the new taxes, which were announced Thursday in parliament by Finance Minister Abdur Razzaq.

Minzum, a former army general, said the new taxes were essential to raise domestic funds for the country's \$1.7 billion development programme. He said the rest of the money would come from donor nations.

But the opposition labelled the budget as "anti-people" and demanded the government resign and order fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The opposition accuses Ershad, a former army general, of rigging parliamentary elections to retain power.

# Lanka

(Continued from Page 1)

One of the victims, a Hindu shopkeeper identified as Autar Krishan, had been shot, police said. His body was discovered in Sopan, about 40 miles south of Srinagar.

The other, identified as Ali Mohammad Khan, was found hanging from a tree in Berdih, about 15 miles west of Srinagar, police said.

A 17-year-old Pakistani parliamentary delegation visiting Saudi Arabia is seeking to muster support against India over disputed Kashmir, the delegation leader Qazi Hussain Ebrahim said in Jeddah today.

"We're seeking political, moral and diplomatic support for the people of Kashmir in their struggle for self-determination," delegation leader Qazi Hussain Ebrahim told the Associated Press.

"We do not want war with India over Kashmir or any other issue, but we'll fight back if war is thrust upon us," Ahmad said.

Almond declared that Pakistan is no longer militarily weak

"and India will not now receive the same support ... from the Soviet Union" that it did in the 1971 war over Bangladesh.

"If the Muslim world openly supports Pakistan, India will not dare to attack it," he said.

The delegation flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday and held talks with the Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and the secretary-general of the Muslim World League, Abdullah Omar Naseef.

# Registration is open now

## 'Waterloo' restaged

2,300 march in 19th century uniforms

BRUSSELS, June 17. (AP): Some 2,300 people in 19th century military uniforms marched and rode horses over grassy knolls today to reenact Napoleon's last stand, the 1815 battle of Waterloo.

The battle was reconstructed on the site where Napoleon's "Grande Armee" of 70,000 suffered its final defeat by more than 100,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, German and Prussian troops allied under the Duke of Wellington.

At least 80,000 spectators lined the battlefield and sat on the "Butte du Lion," a 45-metre (148-foot) mound topped by a lion overlooking the farmlands near Waterloo, today a Brussels suburb, where Napoleon lost his empire 175 years ago in June 18, 1815.

# Abolish KGB demand

MOSCOW, June 17. (AP): A self-described former KGB intelligence chief complained yesterday that the agency still forced despite Soviet reforms — has too much power and should be disbanded.

Until now, no former KGB official in the Soviet Union has publicly proposed the dismantling of the agency. As a rule, KGB officials who break with the agency flee abroad or disappear.

"The KGB has too much political power, and this way will remain a threat to democracy because it may be manipulated," said Oleg D. Kalugin, who identified himself as a one-time major-general in charge of foreign counter-intelligence.

His claim could not be independently verified, although he displayed what he said were his KGB credentials. He said he was drummed out of the KGB this spring, but did not say why.

"I would abolish the KGB as such," said Kalugin, 55, who spoke with reporters after a speech to a political reform group called the Democratic Platform.

Napoleon was shipped to the South Atlantic island of St Helena where he died and was buried in 1821. Years later, his body was returned to Paris.

The former official warned that criticism of the Soviet president is increasing and that KGB chief Vladimir A. Kryuchkov "will turn with the tide."

Estimates of the dead at Waterloo range from 12,000 to 50,000 plus 10,000 horses. The injured numbered 40,000, many of whom were robbed by local townsfolk and rifraff that followed armies around Europe in those days.

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The Waterloo battlefield, an area of 2.5 by 5 kilometers (1.6 by 3 miles) was named a historic site in 1914, and so cannot be developed.



Barbie Doll in Kuwait

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary season, North America's favorite ice spectacular, Ice Capades, are performing in Kuwait from 18th to 24th June and one of its major stars is 'Barbie Doll'. Earlier this month Barbie was in Kuwait to give a spectacular press preview at the Ice Skating Rink. As beautiful Barbie glides on ice she makes even grown-ups, not only children, believe in the wonders of Barbie Doll. Tickets are on sale at the Kuwait International Hotel. At the hotel where she is staying a room has been set up in true Barbie style — all in shades of dainty pink.

# 50 believed dead in boat collision

DHAKA, June 17. (UPI): Fifty people were missing and believed dead after two passenger boats collided head-on last evening on the river Teesta in Brahmanbaria district, about 60 miles (100 km) southeast of Dhaka, authorities said.

Two bodies were recovered from the river, and several people swam ashore, but the remainder of about 100 passengers traveling on the two boats were missing, officials and witnesses said.

To TOKYO 東京 TOKYO 東京 TOKYO OLYMPIC AIRWAYS

# Trump, staff mark birthday

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, June 17, (UPI): A smiling, waving Donald Trump was honoured yesterday at a birthday rally attended by employees of his three casino hotel properties while negotiators met with bank creditors in an effort to hold his empire together.

Trump has a 10-day grace period, which started at 12:01 am yesterday, to make good on the more than \$42 million in interest and principal payments he owes on bonds for his Trump's castle casino. He defaulted on the payments Friday, bringing him a step closer to bankruptcy.

The morning coffee-and-Danish party on the boardwalk outside the Taj Mahal hotel-casino was organised by hotel management "as an expression of support for Mr Trump," according to casino spokesman Karen Tuso. It was attended by about 2,000 people, mostly employees who were not working, their spouses and children who played with balloons, beachballs and frisbees.

## Party

"Happy birthday, Donald" and "I love you, Donald" were the rallying cries of the faithful as Trump joined the party about two hours after it began. A band struck up "happy birthday" as he inspected a huge, 12-page birthday card and moved through the crowd shaking hands with employees and celebrity well-wishers including Peter Allen, Joe Piscopo, Pat Cooper, Robin Leach, and Buster Poindexter.

The real estate developer turned 34 last Thursday but celebrations were deferred until yesterday due to frantic activity by the Trump organisation to persuade banks to loan the real estate tycoon another \$60 million.

Trump's family, close friends and entertainers planned a more lavish birthday bash last night at the Trump castle, organised as a champagne dinner. Dolly Parton was reportedly sending a birthday message.

The missed payments on junk bonds issued to finance Trump's castle marked the "first" time Trump was "unable to meet obligations on the \$1.5 billion publicly traded debt that has underwritten the growth of his casinos and various New York City real estate holdings."

## Resigned

Late Friday First Fidelity Bank NA, the New Jersey bank acting as trustee for the bonds, said it resigned to avoid appearance of a conflict of interest. The bank's major responsibility as trustee is to collect interest and principal payments.

Earlier, the Trump organisation announced in a terse statement that principal and interest payments due June 15 on two series of bonds issued by Trump's Castle Funding Inc. to fund the casino "are not being made."

First Fidelity said it had sent a notice of default to Trump's Castle Funding Inc. which should have been received yesterday.

Trump technically has a 10-day grace period in which to work out a deal before defaulting on the bond payments for Trump's castle. The bank specified that \$15.59 million was due in interest on one mortgage bond issue, along with \$2.68 million in principal. On another bond issue financing Trump's castle casino, interest of \$4.38 million was due for a total of \$42.65 million.

## Claim

A default would give Trump's creditors the right to immediately lay claim to the casino.

"Any time you miss an interest payment like this, it puts you closer to going under," said junk bond specialist Lomen Schaefer, vice-president of capital markets at First Albany Corp. "Unless (Trump) can become friendly with all of his bankers, he's going to have a tough time of it."

Immediately after the Trump announcement, Moody's Investors Service Inc. downgraded about \$925 million of Trump's long-term debt for bonds issued to finance the Taj Mahal and Trump Plaza, saying a "default could occur on the outstanding bonds in November."

Taj Mahal bonds now carry a CAA rating that indicates major risks for investors.

## Underwater robot finds gold bar, part of sunken treasure

TAMPA, June 17, (AP): A gold bar plucked by an underwater robot from a shipwreck in 1,500 feet (450 metres) of water off southwest Florida provides strong evidence that treasure hunters have located part of a gold-laden fleet sunk in 1622.

Official seals of the Spanish Crown on the 1 pound, 8 ounce (672-gram) bar indicate it may be part of a fleet of ships lost in a 1622 hurricane in the treacherous waters south of Key West, said marine archaeologist Dan Bagley III.

The bar resembles gold carried by the Nuestra Senora de Atocha, a galleon discovered in shallow water in the Keys by treasure hunter Mel Fisher in 1985. That discovery



Stephanie is held by her mother Eleni (left) June 16 after receiving the blood transfusion. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Stephanie out of danger

## Leukaemia girl's father still unhappy

NICOSIA, June 17, (Reuter): Stephanie Charalambous, a two-year-old Cypriot leukaemia victim given blood despite her parents' religious objections, is out of immediate danger and craving potato chips, doctors said today.

"There is no longer a high risk of immediate complications. Her haemoglobin is at an acceptable level and we are proceeding with chemotherapy," Dr George Marcoullis told Reuters.

"She asked for potato chips for lunch but is still afraid of people around her," he said.

The brown-haired child, receiving treatment at Nicosia Evangelistria Medical Centre, had an 80 per cent chance of recovery, he said.

Health Minister Panicos Papageorgiou, himself a physician, told Cyprus Television yesterday, "the improvement in Stephanie's condition justifies the action we took yesterday in making her a ward of the social welfare department."

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# Beetle Bailey

## Funny, says US army



WASHINGTON, June 17, (AP): For 40 years, the army grumbled about Pvt. Beetle Bailey. He's a real misfit, they said. Lazy. No spit and polish. Drives sarge 'nuts. He'll never make corporal. Let him peel potatoes forever.

The one fine day, somebody with silver stars on his shoulders looked around the table and told the men with silver eagles on their shirt collars: Hey, you, know, the little guy's funny.

Yes, sir, they all replied, nodding in unison.

And so it was that an incredulous Mort Walker, a cartoonist who once slogged through the mud as a US Army draftee in World War II, was ushered into the Pentagon — the Defence Department's headquarters in Washington — and given a hero's welcome on Thursday.

Walker, who created the Beetle Bailey comic strip in 1950, could hardly believe it. For years, he had braved the army's fire when Beetle and the gang — hapless Zero, fat Sgt. Snorkel, bootlicking Lt. Fuzz, pompous Gen. Halftrack — did something foolish.

On Thursday, he blinked before TV lights in the Pentagon. Generals slapped him on the back and asked for his autograph. One of them gave Walker a framed "certificate of appreciation for patriotic civilian service" with a ribbon in red, white and blue.

The war was over.

"I can't believe I'm actually here," Walker said, "as hard as it is to find anything in the Pentagon, they finally found a sense of the Beetle Bailey strip."

The army brass wasn't always that charitable. They thought the strip presented an unflattering image of army life that Beetle was a poor role model for modern GIs.

More than 1,800 newspapers worldwide carry the syndicated Beetle Bailey strip.

## Doctors reattach woman's torn scalp

SAN FRANCISCO, June 17, (AP): A woman whose scalp was torn off from the eyelids to the nape of her neck, exposing the skull, had her scalp sewn back on in a 14-hour operation. "She is going to be just fine," the lead surgeon said.

A team of five surgeons worked with high-powered microscopes to replace the woman's entire scalp, small blood vessels and other tissue torn from her head last week in a vineyard accident in Napa Valley.

"She was an attractive woman before ... but will be an attractive woman when it's over," said Dr Alfonso Oliva, who conducted the surgery at Ralph K. Davies Medical Centre.

The 33-year-old vineyard manager, whose family asked that her name not be released, was working in the field at Domaine Chandon on June 4 when her hair caught into the rotor of a sprayer crankshaft, the hospital said.

Though horrified, the woman's co-workers had enough presence of mind to preserve the scalp. The woman was sped by ambulance to a nearby hospital in Napa, and then 50 miles (80 kilometres) to San Francisco, where the operation was done within 12 hours of the accident.

Oliva said his team reconnected two of the major arteries to the scalp. Three veins in the exposed skull were rejoined using vein grafts from the woman's feet, and eight blood vessels, some "as small as the width of lead in a mechanical pencil," were rejoined.

Oliva said despite the severity of the accident, the woman will recover with little outward sign of the ordeal. Most of the scars, he said, will be covered by natural skin folds and hair.

## Underwater robot finds gold bar, part of sunken treasure

Yielded gold and artifacts worth \$400 million.

The latest wreck is the first intact Spanish galleon ever found in deep water, the treasure hunter said.

Seahawk Deep Ocean Technology, founded by Mark in 1986, spotted the gold bar last week during part of a survey in preparation for archaeological excavation 75 miles (120 kilometres) from land, said Seahawk director Dan Bagley III.

"Since gold bars often had marks lending clues to the ship's identity, our excavation team decided to bring this piece up to investigate immediately, rather than completing the survey and coming back," Bagley said.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts: Mr Universe Matthew Dufresne faces federal charges of conspiring to smuggle body-building steroids into the United States.

Dufresne, 24, was indicted Tuesday on charges of conspiring to import steroids from Belgium and with possession of 5,000 doses of the drug.

In October, he was chosen Mr Universe by the North Atlantic Body Building Association, the second person to win that title in the same year he was Mr America.

Anabolic steroids are used to build muscles and stamina but can have dangerous side-effects and are banned by international athletic associations.

The charges against Dufresne carry up to 13 years in prison and fines of \$260,000. (AP)

MIAMI, Florida: Comedian Jackie Mason has been ordered to pay \$2,000 a month in child support to a 37-year-old former girlfriend he denies getting pregnant.

A Florida state appeals court Tuesday upheld a ruling in favour of Ginger Miller, who filed a paternity suit against Mason three years ago, claiming Mason had fathered her 4-year-old daughter, Sheets.

The 60-year-old comic denies he is the father and had appealed the earlier child-support ruling.

A judge found in initial blood tests show there is a 99.94 per cent chance that the girl is Mason's daughter.

"I feel thrilled because now I can send Jackie to a religious school," said Reiter, who operates a singing telegram service. "I have collection agencies housing me."

Mason's lawyer, Gerald Mager, declined to comment. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A drifter who nearly killed actress Theresa Saldana in a knife attack eight years ago has been ordered to stand trial on charges of sending her threatening letters from prison.

Municipal Judge Alena Soper issued the ruling Wednesday in the case of Scottish-born Arthur Jackson, 54.

"I am very grateful," Miss Saldana said in a statement. On Tuesday, the actress, who was in the movie *Kagin's Ball*, testified Jackson had sent her terrifying death-threat letters.

Jackson, an obsessed fan who stalked the actress and attacked her, was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 1982.

His sentence was cut in half for good behaviour and he was due for release in April, but the new charges have kept him behind bars.

The charges carry up to six years in prison. (AP)

URBANA, Illinois: Is your dog feeling feeble? Your cat miserable? Conventional cures don't help?

Take your suffering pet to the acupuncturist vet.

After spending 120 hours in Florida learning the ancient Chinese art of acupuncture, Elles Reiter has brought her skills back to Urbana to improve the health of ailing dogs and cats.

Take Divot for example — a dog with more than the usual canine

aversions for cats. She's allergic to them, and when her skin itches, she tugs it with her teeth, leaving scars behind.

For the cure, Divot stood atop a table, her paws sliding on stainless steel while Paul stuck needles in the dog's coat and wiggle them.

"This is the worst part," said Paul. "Once the needles are in, they get bored and want to leave." (AP)



## Nordic Empress

More than a hundred spectators' boats and crowds of people on shore greet Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's newest ship Nordic Empress as it arrives in Miami June 16. The 1600 passenger liner built in France is designed for three and four night cruises and will officially join the RCC1 fleet to begin operation following its christening June 22 (Reuter wirephoto)

LONDON: A 1964 acoustic guitar from the collection of English classical guitarist Julian Bream has been sold for \$26,000, a world record for the instrument. Sotheby's auction house said.

The guitar, made by Robert Boucher in Paris, was bought Thursday by a Japanese dealer whose name was unavailable. The previous record was \$18,900, paid in 1974 for a south German guitar made in 1624.

Acoustic guitars are the traditional models of the instrument and they tend to wear out fairly quickly when used. Bream has seen his play his guitars for two years and then likes to sell them for others to play. (AP)

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BOSTON: Actor Robert Morse received the eighth annual Elliott Norton Award, for his portrayal of Truman Capote in the play *Tru*.

The award, named for retired Boston theatre critic Elliott Norton, is given "for distinguished contribution to the theatre in Boston during the preceding years."

The award includes a silver medal and \$1,000.

Morse previously won the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play, the Drama League Award, the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in the play, which is now on Broadway.

Tru, by Jay Presson Allen, was presented last fall in Cambridge by the American Repertory Theatre. (AP)

SYDNEY, Australia: Peter Elchar and Karen Hopwood can be forgiven for wanting a couple of quiet nights at home.

In less than 48 hours, they have survived a plane crash and found themselves in the middle of a car chase.

"I think we've had enough excitement for one week," said Elchar, 25.

On Tuesday, they were among five passengers in a light plane that lost power and plunged into a swamp. No one was injured.

So they went to visit friends on Wednesday night to describe their miraculous escape. Driving home at 2 am, they found themselves behind a speeding stolen car and in front of a pursuing police cruiser.

As Elchar pulled over to get out of the officer's way, the driver of the stolen car dodged traffic, skidded on wet pavement and careered across

# Frogs, salamanders are disappearing world-wide

MIAMI, June 17, (AP): Frogs, toads and salamanders are vanishing around the world in a trend biologists say appears linked to the planet's deteriorating environment.

From the United States to India, Japan and Australia, scientists report whole amphibian populations have disappeared or are declining, even in protected reserves.

"There is no consistent pattern," says University of Miami biologist Marc Hayes. "There doesn't seem to be any obvious global cause — except that almost all seem to be man-made."

Hayes, who heads a US Committee on Declining Amphibians, says humans should worry not only because of the loss of animal species,

but because amphibians' highly sensitive biology make them the "canary in the coal mine" — an environmental early warning system.

Amphibians, including frogs, toads and salamanders, were the first land vertebrates. They appeared 400 million years ago, long before dinosaurs, and about 200 million years ago evolved into species similar to present-day varieties.

That longevity appears imperiled. Studies presented at an international conference in February documented a sharp drop world-wide in amphibian populations.

Leopard frogs are no longer sighted in Canada. The common European toad has disappeared from regions in Norway. Three species of

miniature frogs vanished from Puerto Rico. Salamander populations are shrinking in the western United States, and Japan reports several frog species are in decline.

A recently discovered Australian frog that fascinated biologists because it hatched its young in its stomach apparently became extinct in only one season. The Monte Verde nature reserve in Costa Rica reports all of its amphibian populations have declined, and the golden toad in the Rocky mountains of the western United States.

Hayes says ultraviolet light is a known threat to frog's eggs, and increased amounts of the harmful radiation entering through the thinning ozone layer could be destructive. Another hazard for frogs is

"In some of the areas that are the most protected, frogs are disappearing, and we have no explanation for it," Hayes says. "There are a whole suite of species that have disappeared from very wide ranges in the United States."

David Wake, a zoologist at the University of California at Berkeley who chaired the February conference, says acid rain could be one of the culprits killing salamanders in the Rocky mountains of the western United States.

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## Divers plan rescue of sea turtles as slick moves towards shore

GALVESTON, Texas, June 17. (AP): Loggerhead sea turtles are threatened by crude oil creeping closer to shore from the crippled supertanker *Mega Borg*, which spewed more goo into the Gulf of Mexico yesterday.

Divers were planning a rescue mission to pluck about five loggerhead turtles from waters near the slick's leading edge, said Edward Klima of the National Oceanographic and

stocking ponds with bass and other predator fish, especially in areas where the animals evolved with no such enemies, and have no ability to escape them.

In south Florida's Everglades, Hayes notes, pig frogs were hunted for food almost to extinction in the 1930s, and have never fully recovered. That pattern is being

repeated in India and Indonesia.

Changing weather patterns caused

by global warming could be to blame

for the disappearance of amphibians

in Costa Rica's Monte Verde nature

About 4.6 million gallons (17.5 million litres) of oil have spilled from the Norwegian tanker since it was rocked by an explosion June 8, coast guard Lt Cmdr Frank Whipple said yesterday. The figure makes the *Mega Borg* spill the fifth-worst in US history.

Coast guard officials believe most of that oil evaporated or burned in the inferno following the explosion.

preserve, said Hayes. Or roads and other development might be preventing them from moving between the many interconnected habitats they need to live, he said.

## Chilean funeral to honour the dead

QUIQUE, Chile, June 17. (Reuter): Thousands lined the streets of this northern town yesterday to bid farewell to 14 political prisoners discovered buried in a mass grave, victims of a military firing squad after Chile's 1973 military coup.

The crowds, some carrying Chilean flags tied with black ribbons, applauded steadily as the families of the dead filed into the town's simple wooden-roofed cathedral for a funeral mass. The coffins, bearing photographs of the dead and draped with flowers, were lined up in the middle of the church.

Former inmates of the prison camp where the victims were held took part in the mass and helped carry the coffins two miles (3 km) to the cemetery.

Outside people carried banners reading "truth and justice for the crimes committed by the dictatorship" and "Chile will always remember them."

The 14 buried were the first of 20 bodies discovered two weeks ago in the mass grave in the isolated fishing village of Pisagua, which was used by the military as a prison camp after a coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

Extremely dry conditions kept the corpses, which had been buried in potato sacks, perfectly preserved, the bullet wounds showing and their features twisted in agony. One was identified after a letter to his father was found in his clothes.

The military said most were shot after "war tribunals" had condemned them or while allegedly trying to escape.

Former inmates of the camp, through which as many as 2,000 passed after the coup, said prisoners were tortured there.

The discovery of the mass grave has put pressure on the government of President Patricio Aylwin, who took office from Pinochet three months ago, to investigate human rights violations committed during 16 1/2 years of Pinochet's rule.

Santiago Archbishop Carlos Oviedo said last week that Pinochet, who is still commander-in-chief of the army, should be held responsible for abuses that occurred under his government. More than 700 people disappeared in the repression of leftists, according to the Catholic church.

The military claimed their acts were justified by a state of "internal war" the country was in after the toppling of Marxist President Salvador Allende.

**Ecuador:** Voters angered by President Rodrigo Borja's failure to control inflation are expected to deliver a sharp blow to his centre-left party in congressional elections, analysts said.

The big winner is expected to be the Conservative Party of former President Leon Febres Cordero, who has promised to put "Borja and his incompetent ministers in their place."

Rancor has arisen between the two politicians since a closely contested 1984 runoff.

If Borja's party loses control of Congress, his leadership could suffer from the same fractious, paralysing battles with legislators that characterised Febres Cordero's 1984-1988 rule.

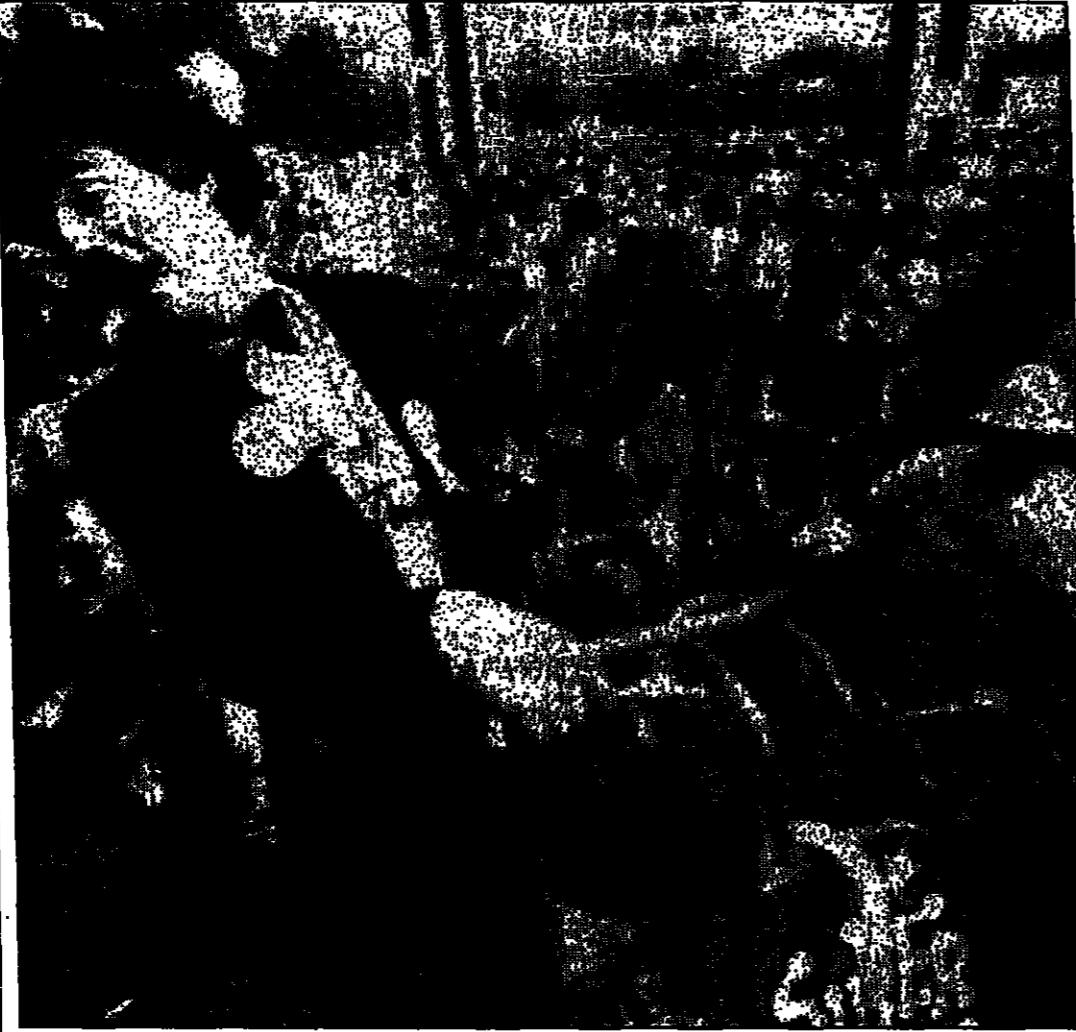
Borja's Democratic Left Party is expected to lose half of the 30 seats it holds in the 72-member unicameral congress, according to voter surveys.

Polls indicate that Febres Cordero's Social Christian Party will increase its seats from seven to between 15 and 20.

Ecuador has 15 registered parties and at least a dozen are expected to elect members to congress.

At stake are 60 seats from districts representing Ecuador's 21 provinces. The seats have two-year terms.

Twelve seats with national constituencies have four-year terms and will not be contested until 1992. (AP)



Bicycle ride

Eight foot tall clown Professor Crump was among those entertaining over 30,000 entrants in the fifteenth annual London to Brighton bicycle ride. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Centam summit begins

### Discuss ways to improve economies

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, June 17. (UPI): Six presidents sat down yesterday for a Central American summit to "put the wars behind us" and discuss ways collectively to improve their struggling economies.

The two-day summit began yesterday morning in Antigua, a Spanish colonial town lined with cobblestone streets and topped with red-tile roofs in a valley about 30 miles (48 km) from Guatemala City.

The meeting got off to a late start as presidents, economic ministers, foreign ministers and other officials from Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama gathered around television sets to watch Costa Rica play Brazil in the World Cup.

A Costa Rican government source said President Rafael Calderon, an avid soccer fan, had asked the night before that he be able to watch "at least the

first half." Costa Rica lost 1-0.

In a speech opening the summit, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo urged his colleagues "to put the wars behind us and begin constructing the means for an exchange of ideas to strengthen democracy."

"If war is an act against humanity, then poverty is an act for which humanity is responsible," Cerezo said. "We have to confront the problems of poverty, injustice and political and social differences between us."

The stated theme of the summit was to seek ways to collectively improve the region's economies, including the formation of a Central American Economic Community along the lines of the European Economic Community for the six Central American countries to trade as a bloc on world markets.

"To do that, we first have to remove the internal obstacles to exchange," said Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera. "If we can't openly trade among ourselves, how can we open up to the outside?"

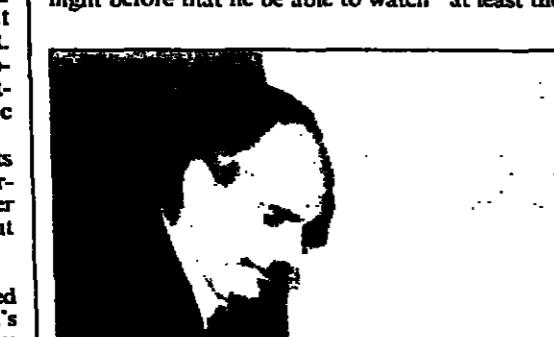
Mid-way through yesterday's work session, the presidents confirmed individually that free trade in the region and finding new markets for Central American goods figured prominently in the talks.

Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon said his country, having the most stable economy of the six nations, would have nothing to lose by forming a common market.

"The situation of Costa Rica is very similar to what other Central America countries aspire to be," he said. "We have to be very clear not to promote competition between ourselves."

US Secretary of State James Baker was scheduled to arrive in Guatemala tonight and meet separately with each of the presidents.

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, asked if meeting individually with Baker would hamper opportunities for cohesion, said "we are going to meet with him with a united front."



Chamorro thanks Cristian for offering her a chair June 16 during the opening ceremony of the Central American Economic Summit. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Ortega's seven-foot concrete wall divides residents of Nicaraguan capital

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 17. (AP): A seven-foot (two-metre) concrete wall surrounding former president Daniel Ortega's home has become a symbol of the bitterness lingering between the Sandinistas and the conservatives who beat them in last February's elections.

The wall, with watchtowers and armed men, surrounds nearly two city blocks enclosing the residence of the former president. It cuts off a street that divided the blocks and passed right in front of the house.

With Ortega's 10-year rule over, the city govern-

ment now wants to tear down the wall and open the street.

But Sandinista supporters have painted pictures on the wall hoping to protect it. Neighbours have camped out in front of it to block wrecking crews.

Mayor Arnoldo Aleman says the wall must come down, at least the section that blocks a street in front of Ortega's house.

"The Berlin Wall came down, and so will this one," Aleman told the Associated Press. "I do not care if they put a Picasso on it."

Ortega's sign-painting supporters were unper-

suaded.

"This is not Berlin, Aleman," said one sign painter on the wall.

When the mayor threatened to send a city crew to tear down the wall, neighbours — many of whom had their own modest homes built by the Sandinista government — organised a protest and slept next to the wall to protect it.

Then members of the Sandinista Cultural Association painted murals on the wall and challenged the mayor to destroy "art."

"They are not artists," Aleman said. "They are just a bunch of shiftless bums."

But bright coloured murals now adorn most of the wall in front of the house, and volunteer Sandinista workers mow the grass and pull weeds on the wall. The demolition crews held back.

Aleman gave up on his attempt temporarily, but the city filed a complaint with the Interior Ministry demanding that the street be opened.

"It is up to the minister now," Aleman said. "He has to act."

### Loves 3 things

President Guillermo Endara says he loves three things in this world, God, the Panamanian people and his new wife.

Endara, 54, married 23-year-old Ana Mae Diaz in a two-hour Roman Catholic ceremony at Metropolitan Cathedral. Ambassadors of the United States and Latin American and European countries were among the guests.

## Europe united to tackle pollution

### EEC pledges assistance

DUBLIN, June 17. (Reuter): East and West Europe united this weekend in determination to combat a communist-bequeathed environmental catastrophe that has overtaken nuclear war as the greatest threat to their people.

"We are talking about the survival and health of our continent," said the European Economic Community's commissioner for the environment, Carlo Ripa di Meana.

Environment ministers from across Europe launched an urgent initiative yesterday to tackle nightmare pollution and dangerously inadequate nuclear plant safety, blighting central and East European states after decades of communist policies.

Their historic meeting, the first of its kind, would have been unthinkable before last year's rush towards democracy lifted the iron curtain that had divided Europe since World War Two.

"This was a conference of solidarity," Ripa said. "The European Economic Community will work with these countries to save and improve the environment of the whole of Europe."

The EEC pledged technical assistance and substantial though unspecified amounts of financial aid to help with monitoring air, water and soil pollution and modernising or replacing the ageing industrial and power plants that are largely to blame.

The community also resolved to work out codes of conduct with business to ensure West European companies that set up plants in the newly liberalising economies of the east do not use cheap and dirty technology.

For their part ministers from central and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, agreed to introduce tough environmental standards urgently and to vet new industrial projects for their impact on the environment.

"It was not a begging bowl attitude," Ireland's Padraig Flynn, the conference host, said of the eastern governments.

"These countries are going to do a lot to help themselves and they will do it as quickly as possible despite the fact that the costs involved are horrendous."

Romania had been expected to join Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union at the talks, but pulled out at the last minute after last week's clashes in Bucharest that have called into question the government's commitment to democracy.

Ripa said environmental data supplied by Romania so far had been totally inadequate and the meeting's final communiqué made clear Bucharest, and others, would get EEC help only if democratic reforms continued.

It had been clear long before the conference that pollution levels in central and Eastern Europe were serious, and many of them Soviet-built nuclear reactors, similar to the Chernobyl plant that exploded in 1986, unsafe by Western standards.

In Bulgaria and other countries, popular anger over such issues played an important role in sparking pro-democracy movements that swept away old guard communist regimes last year.

The Sandinistas, experts in symbolic battle, said the government's desire to tear down the brick wall blocking the street symbolised efforts to destroy everything the Sandinistas had built, including free health care, public education and land reform.

"It's also an attack on the security of the party," said Aldo Cajuna, a Sandinista Party worker who rushed to the compound to support Murillo.

On May 25, Murillo protested a government plan to reopen a public street that passes through a Sandinista compound where she and Ortega live.

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**Wasn't that great mate?**

A senior Welsh guard breaks into a smile with a colleague while inspecting his uniform during the Trooping of the Colour June 16. This event is to mark the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Wanted: formal jobs for UK royals

LONDON, June 17. (Reuters): Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says. It quoted a member of the Queen's Privy Council, an advisory group of elder statesmen, as saying she "firmly believes that it would be helpful if the younger royals...could be involved in work based on the principle of service and responsibility."

He said Queen Elizabeth particularly wants clear-cut roles for her youngest son Prince Edward, a royal marine drop-out, and the helicopter-flying Duchess of York, wife of naval aviator Prince Andrew.

The councillor, who was not identified, said the request for "workable options" from the government was made at a recent audience at Buckingham Palace.

There was no immediate comment from the palace on the newspaper report.

Prince Edward's low-key job with composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's Theatre Company and the Duchess' expensive lifestyle, largely funded by the British taxpayer, have led to frequent lampooning in the popular press.

Prince Charles, heir to the throne and an outspoken critic of environmental pollution, has



Members of the royal family watch the flypast during the Trooping of the Colour June 16. They are (from left to right) Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince

William, Prince Harry, Prince Charles, and Princess Diana. (Reuter wirephoto)

been widely praised for interests that go beyond the ceremonial. His sister, Princess Anne, is president of the Save the Children Fund.

The pro-monarchy Sunday

Express said government jobs could be hard to find because many posts could embroil the royal family in political controversy.

All British cabinet ministers

and other eminent people appointed by the queen belong to the 350-member Privy Council, whose main function is to advise the crown on royal proclamations.

Thousands of people turned out yesterday to celebrate the 64th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, who was honoured with a massive and colourful parade by British troops.

## Bonn to ask for return of Maguire

BONN, June 17. (Reuters): West Germany said today it would seek the extradition of a suspected Irish Republican Army (IRA) member arrested in Belgium if her identity were confirmed.

The woman, named by Belgian police as Dolores Maguire, was arrested after a shoot-out in a wood near Hoogstraten, in eastern Belgium close to the Dutch border, yesterday.

The West German federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said it was awaiting official confirmation that the woman under arrest was Maguire.

"It's her, then we will seek her extradition," spokesman Hans-Juergen Foerster said.

He said Maguire was wanted in West Germany for two attacks last year, including the June 19 bombing of a British Rhine Army barracks in Osnabrueck and the July 2 murder of a British soldier in Hanover.

Maguire was arrested on July 12 last year in Ireland and acquitted in February by a Dublin court of carrying explosives for IRA.

Foerster said West Germany had unsuccessfully asked for her extradition while she was in Irish custody.

After her release, he said, "nobody knew where she was."

Belgian police said, after Maguire's arrest she had been travelling with two male companions in a car.

About two hours later, across the border, Dutch police arrested an English-speaking man who was "obviously on the run," said Stephan Worm, a Dutch National Police spokesman. He added the man was believed to be one of the group of three.

Worm said the man refused to give his name or make any other statement. He was being held for extradition to Belgium.

Police on both sides of the Belgian-Dutch border were looking for the other man.

A police spokesman in the north Belgian city of Turnhout said, "we are almost certain that we are dealing with three IRA people."

Police said Maguire, who gave her age as 23, had been travelling on a US passport under a false name. Police seized a big haul of arms in the operation.

The IRA, battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, has stepped up its campaign against British Army bases in West Germany.

Last week it claimed responsibility for a bomb in a British Army training centre in the northern West German town of Hamelin.

Two weeks ago, IRA gunmen shot dead a British major in Dortmund, and last month it killed two Australian lawyers in the Dutch town of Roermond, mistaking them for British servicemen.

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## Tories split over timing of next general polls

LONDON, June 17. (Kuna): The government of UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is split over the timing of the next general election, following further bad news this week about the UK economy. It was reported in London today.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said some ministers believe the impact of continuing high inflation, which has now reached almost 10 per cent, and high interest rates, have wrecked any chances of calling an early election.

The problem is compounded by new divisions in the cabinet about the timing of Britain's entry into

the European exchange rate mechanism, the paper added.

And it pointed out that the government has still not resolved the problem of how to tackle the unpopularity of the new local taxation system, the poll tax.

As a result, ministers are now warning the prime minister that it will be impossible to call an election before 1992 and that the present Parliament will have to run a full five years if there is to be any hope of a fourth successive election victory, the paper said.

## March in De Gaulle village

COLOMBEY-LES-DEUX-EGLESSES, France, June 17. (Reuters): Thousands of admirers of General Charles de Gaulle paraded through his home village in eastern France today to mark the 50th anniversary of his World War Two call-to-arms from London.

The marchers, carrying French tricolour flags, made their way slowly from several directions, meeting at the base of a massive monument in the form of a Cross of Lorraine, the Gaulist emblem, which dominates the countryside.

The demonstration was organised by the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) Party, which said between 35,000 and 45,000 people attended, including party leader Jacques Chirac.

Maurice Schumann, a post-war foreign minister and De Gaulle's spokesman during World War Two, addressed the marchers before they laid a wreath at the general's tomb in the village cemetery at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises.

De Gaulle died here November 1970, aged 80, after suddenly resigning as president the previous year following the defeat in national referendum of a regional reform project which he backed.

The commemoration was the first of a series to climax in Paris tomorrow, when tens of thousands are expected at a sound-and-light show on the banks of the Seine re-creating the main moments of De Gaulle's wartime career.

# Burma rebels warn junta

MANERPLAW, Burma, June 17. (UPI) Burma's armed rebels, in a show of support for the newly elected opposition party, have promised to end 40 years of civil war once a democratic federal union fair to minorities is formed in Burma.

In a meeting yesterday at its jungle headquarters at Manerplaw, about 130 miles (210 km) east of Rangoon, the Democratic Alliance of Burma also warned its forces would launch a military offensive if the ruling military junta did not turn over power to the pro-democracy opposition party which won last month's elections.

The federal system which has been demanded and fought for by the indigenous nations does not mean secessionism," the alliance of 21 rebel groups said in a statement issued after the meeting.

The alliance promised that once a democratic union treating all ethnic groups fairly was set up, the long civil war would end and the groups would "never destroy such a federal union nor secede from such a union."

Previously ethnic groups in the alliance accused the central government of discriminating against them and demanded the right to secede from any federal system.

The demand sparked a sporadic civil war that began in 1948 and still continues in Burma's border areas despite strong countermeasures by the Burmese military.

The alliance statement said such a union should provide states for each major ethnic group, power-sharing between the central government and the states, a multi-party system, and guaranteed human rights.

It demanded a smooth transition in power from the military government to the newly elected National League for Democracy and the release of NLD leaders under arrest.

"While we are waiting," said Gen. Bo Mya, the DAP president, "we will request other countries and organisations to pressure the military government, economically and politically, so it will hand over power to the NLD."

Bo Mya, who is commander of the ethnic Karen army, the strongest military group in the alliance, said foreign aid had enabled the Burmese military to hang onto power despite disastrous socialist economic policies.

Dissident student leader Moe The Zun, chairman of the All-Burma Students Democratic Front, warned that if the military regime failed to turn over power, both student and ethnic rebel groups would intensify their attacks.

The student leader said there are more than 2,000 students fighting with ethnic Mon and Karen troops in lower Burma and 1,000 students fighting with the Kachin independence army.

Rebel sources in Bangkok have said, however, the students have little military capability and all the ethnic groups are short of weapons and ammunition.

# Camp no better than Vietnam Galang Gulag

GALANG ISLAND, Indonesia, June 17. (UPI) Had he known about the conditions at Galang refugee camp, Nguyen Binh Tran says he never would have left home.

"I would rather be living temporarily in Vietnam," said Nguyen, who has had only a plastic sheet over his head for shelter since he arrived May 25 on this island, 30 miles (50 km) south of Singapore.

Tran is one of about 16,000 Indochinese refugees who call this 22-square-mile (57-kms) island home. More than 3,000 boat people arrived in the UN-sponsored camp in May alone and officials predict that figure could be higher in June.

Low on funds and lacking roofing materials, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Organisation has resorted to stringing up plastic sheets above slabs of concrete to shelter the refugees.

The plastic offers little shade under the equatorial sun and no protection from the surprisingly chilly sea breezes that come at night, along with hordes of mosquitoes.

The lucky refugees sleep in hammocks, but most have only a plastic beach mat to place on the concrete.

The nearest bathing place is a stream half a mile (1 km) away. The stream also served as a communal toilet until latrines were dug recently at the camp's edge.

UN staff are petitioning their Geneva headquarters for a near-doubling of their current annual budget of \$1.9 million, but the request comes at a time of refugee aid cuts.

A UN official said he was unaware that the United States, Australia and Britain each have

donated \$1 million to Galang since the United Nations issued an international plea for help in April.

"It (the money) hasn't filtered down to us here on the ground," he said.

Classes at the camp school, run by save the children, were suspended in March when the school was commandeered for living quarters. When it does operate, the school can seat only 650 of the children aged 5 to 16 — one-fifth of the camp total.

Medical care also has been stretched to the breaking point, camp workers say. People who are ill must walk up to 2 miles (3 km) to reach the island's only medical facility.

One section of the camp designated for unaccompanied minors under age 16. There are now 400 such minors and because the special barracks sleeps only 50, most of the children have been farmed out to refugee families. Five full-time Indonesian social workers keeping track of their welfare.

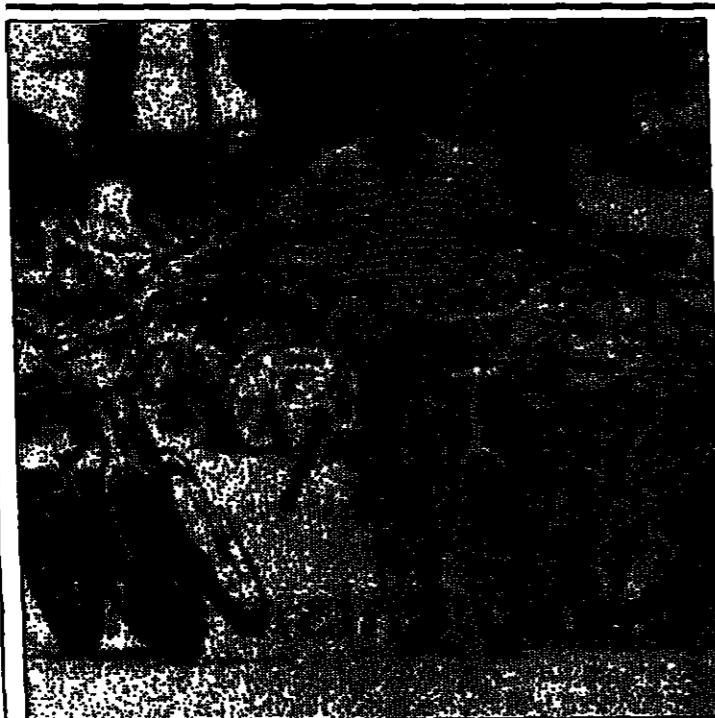
The Indonesian military recently arranged a rare tour of the facilities in homes of attracting international attention to the refugees' predicament.

There have been nearly 10,000 arrivals at Galang this year, relief officials said, adding that many of the most recent arrivals had been pushed back to sea by Malaysian authorities. Malaysia denies the accusation.

But even Indonesia, which has been praised for its generosity with the refugees, is taking a leading role in the international push to stem the flow of boat people.



A group of Cambodian refugee children pose in the Indonesian camp island of Galang. (Reuter wirephoto)



Balancing on bike

A bicycle attendant pedals to a bike rack in the Philippines while balancing four other bikes in a bid to attract tourists in a public park in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Filipinos back Cory stance

MANILA, June 17. (Kuna) Government-conducted survey shows that most Filipinos agreed with the decision of President Corazon Aquino to serve to the United States government the notice of termination of the bases agreement during the recently concluded US military bases exploratory talks.

Press Under Secretary Horacio Paredes today told reporters that the findings were based on the survey conducted recently by the bureau of communication services under the office of the press secretary. Paredes' remarks were carried by Xinhua news agency.

The sample population of the

survey is composed of 102 males and 98 females living in metro Manila, ages 18 and above.

Some 72 per cent agreed with the government decision to hold the exploratory talks with the US and serve the US the notice of termination of the current bases agreement before deciding whether to discuss with Americans a new treaty while 28 per cent disagreed.

Paredes cited survey results showing that 72 per cent or 144 survey-takers believed that the Philippine panel was able to deliver the message regarding the stand of the Philippine government on the bases issue.

He was formally charged in court on Friday and held on \$500,000 bail.

## American accused of selling SDI plan

LOS ANGELES, June 17. (Reuters) A US engineer was in custody yesterday accused of selling or agreeing to sell "Star Wars" missile secrets to four Japanese firms, US government prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they were also investigating whether Ronald Hoffman, 51, had sold, or agreed to sell, the top secret technology to firms in West Germany and Italy and to Israel's Ministry of Defense.

Hoffman is accused of using his small defense contracting firm, Plasma Technology of Los Angeles, to export a computer software system known as Constam, an integral part of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Assistant US attorney William Fahey said his dealings with Japan netted Hoffman "hundreds of thousands" of dollars.

He was formally charged in court on Friday and held on \$500,000 bail.

SDI, popularly known as Star Wars, is a programme to build a space-based anti-missile shield.

Prosecutors said they did not know if the Japanese companies, which were not named in the government's affidavit, realised they were receiving illegally exported material.

In the affidavit, filed to federal court in Los Angeles, the government said Coutam was a computer programme designed to analyse the exhaust trail of launched missiles. This analysis enabled tracking stations to identify the type of missiles so a decision could be made on how best to counteract them.

Hoffman is specifically charged with violating US export laws by exporting material without proper authorisation. The affidavit said he had failed to get State Department clearance before he entered into agreements with the Japanese.

He was arrested on Thursday after he accepted a cheque for \$150,000 from US customs agents posing as brokers for South African businessmen, prosecutors said.

"We think all of these things are related to the people metric," Wurtzel said. "Every time you turn the channel, you've got to punch this button. We're asking people to do something that is far beyond what is reasonable."

Before 1987, Nielsen's national survey relied on boxes that required no viewer effort. All of a sudden, the rating system told what was on the tube, but not who was watching it. The people metric is designed to show which family member is viewing.

Nielsen stands behind its numbers, saying it has checked and rechecked the people metres and found them to be accurate.

## Mutsu ready for final sail

### Japan's first nuke ship

MUTSU CITY, Japan, June 17. (Reuters) After trying the patience of several host ports for years, Japan's first nuclear-powered experimental ship has promised to leave soon on a long-overdue voyage.

It is by no means the first time that the Mutsu has been scheduled to put to sea, only to have its departure blocked by controversy and technical hitches.

Given the government's intention to scrap the 130-metre (400-foot) vessel once its year-long voyage is over, critics ask why it must sail at all.

The latest plan for the ship to leave this little port city, on the northeastern hook of Japan's main island, on June 7 was foiled by a malfunctioning reactor coolant pump. It followed a string of other technical hitches this spring.

The ship's sponsors now refuse to set Mutsu's next send-off date until the pump failure has been rectified.

When she finally puts to sea, Mutsu will take up station 100 nautical miles off the coast, where it will drift aimlessly for months of reactor tests.

The experiments are intended to test the potential for operating nuclear-powered vessels and further Japan's quest for self-sufficiency in energy.

"We strongly believe that the era of nuclear ships will come," said Yoichiro Otsuka, the Aomori prefecture representative of the state science and technology agency, which is overseeing the project.

However, he said neither the government nor private industry currently had plans to develop another nuclear-fuelled ship.

The Mutsu project has brought sharp criticism from fishermen and anti-nuclear activists since the ship first docked at Ominato City, south of here, in 1970.

Feelings were further inflamed after Mutsu's reactor shield sprang a radiation leak in 1974 while conducting its first power-up test offshore.

Without permanent repair capabilities at sea, the crew had to call on the ship's cook, who prepared a blend of rice and the element boron, which, when applied to the shield, apparently served to absorb and halt the spread of high-energy neutrons.

Junsaku Tsunoda, head of the Mutsu project at the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (Jaeri), said the rice was used as an experiment before engineers could design a permanent casing of steel and cement.

Local citizens, sceptical about the safety of such experiments, refused to allow the ship back into port after it underwent a four-year repair job at Sasebo in southwestern Japan. Forced to find a new port, the government finally convinced city officials at Mutsu to play host.

The repeated moves proved costly, inflating the original Mutsu project budget of 7.3 billion yen (now \$49 million) to a total of 59.3 billion yen (\$395 million).

Tsunoda said that, although the project had cost far more than originally planned, it could eventually bring economic benefits to the nation.

Roughly 150 people work at the Mutsu facility, most seconded from construction and electrical power plants.

"We have no choice but to accept the ship, even if it is a nuclear project, because we need to stimulate the local economy," said Fujio Kikuchi, deputy mayor of Mutsu city, located in the poorest region.

### Floods kill more than 100 in China's southern province

BEIJING, June 17. (AP) More than 100 people died in floods caused by torrential rains this week in China's southern province of Hunan, an official newspaper said today.

The flooding also killed three people in adjoining Jiangxi province, a separate report said.

The flooding in Hunan destroyed about 16,000 homes, killed 2,905 farm animals and damaged 30,000 water conservancy projects, the People's Daily reported. More than 300,000 hectares

## Xuan Ke crusades for Nakhi culture

LIJIANG, China, June 17. (AP) Xuan Ke is a crusader trying to save the culture of his Nakhi people from being swallowed by the Chinese.

Xuan, a musician by training and high school English teacher by trade, is an impassioned man who is convinced he will fail.

"This is a culture that's going to die out," he said bluntly in English. "The Han [Chinese] love that culture."

For two years, Xuan and his 16-member orchestra, including four musicians in their 80s and four in their 70s, have given concerts of traditional Nakhi music for foreign tourists.

"It's not for the 4-yuan (85-cent) admission fee that we do this. It's for the preservation of our traditional culture and arts," he explains at the start of each concert. The orchestra has performed 79 times for a total of 3,900 people from 31 countries.

The musicians are giving lessons to 22 young people in an attempt to preserve music once passed from father to son.

Nakhi people, Naxi in Chinese, have lived for 2,020 years in this lovely valley of northern Yunnan province near the first bend of the Yangtze river.

They had a matriarchal society in ancient times. Property belonged to the woman and there was no marriage. Women took lovers, who visited only at night, and children never knew their fathers.

Only one group of Nakhis in a remote mountain basin remains matriarchal, but even among other Nakhis, older women dressed in traditional lambskin capes and blue aprons still have more authority.

According to Nakhi history books, the Han Chinese arrived in Lijiang in 1428, when millions of soldiers were sent out to border areas.

Only 250,000 Nakhis remain, making up 52 per cent of Lijiang's population. Their way of living has become similar to the Chinese, and about half the Nakhi language now is Chinese.

"But inside our hearts runs a kind of special blood," Xuan said.

The champion of Nakhi culture is 60, a refined man with a dark, square face, gold-framed glasses and a quick laugh.

He can talk for hours about his music, his life and his people, filling up an ashtray with cigarette butts. His stories are punctuated with jokes, often self-deprecating.

Xuan was imprisoned for 20 years for criticising the government during the Hundred Flowers Movement of 1957, when intellectuals were encouraged to speak out.

Since returning to Lijiang in 1978, he has used whatever means available to preserve the culture. He spent five years translating from English to Chinese a book by a Russian adventurer who lived in Lijiang for nearly a decade before the communists gained power in 1949.

(See also Page 12)

## Drop in TV viewing

### US households switch off

LOS ANGELES, June 17. (AP) Is the US "conch potato" dead? Television viewers across the country appear to be tuning out and turning off in record numbers, upsetting broadcasters and advertisers alike.

The latest survey by the respected A.C. Nielsen Co. indicates that 2 million US households have simply switched off their television sets — a trend that could spell millions of dollars in lost broadcast revenues.

Nielsen offers no explanation for this drastic and unprecedented decline, but US TV networks, ABC, CBS and NBC say they just don't believe millions of people have abruptly stopped watching.

Others blame a switch to cable television and even home video.

"The use of the set has been a very, very predictable behaviour," said Alan Wurtzel, ABC's research chief. "All of a sudden, the rating system has been pulled out and the behaviour has been changed and no one can explain why."

"Nielsen has lost people they can't account for," he added. "According to them, they have simply gone away."

To realise why Nielsen's figures have turned US TV on its ear is to understand the company's rating system is the foundation upon which the television industry is built.

"People metres" installed in 4,000 homes across the country provide the ratings that decide which shows make it and which don't. But more importantly, the Nielsen numbers provide the base for what networks charge advertisers for commercial time.

And these are the Nielsen figures for the first

quarter of this year that have caused such a stir. Seemingly overnight, overall television viewing is down 4 per cent, as compared to the same period in 1989.

In prime-time audiences of women between the ages of 18 and 49 — an audience crucial to advertisers because this group buys most consumer goods — viewership is down nearly 10 per cent.

Enter the controversy.

The networks say the Nielsen "people metric" system, used nationally since 198

# Romanians seek political asylum

## Disenchanted with new government, fear reprisals

TELESE, Italy, June 17, (AP): The foot soldiers of the Romanian revolution huddled around a small television Sunday, watching news reports of their pleas for political asylum in the West.

The angry young men whose involvement in last December's revolution earned them free trips to see Romania play in the World Cup said they want to defect because they are disenchanted with the new government. They said they fear reprisals if they return.

Thirty-nine Romanians travelled to Rome and Naples on Saturday to formally request asylum in Italy. The Interior Ministry said it would decide tomorrow whether to consider the request.

Faiz staying in Telese, a mountain village northeast of Naples that has welcomed about 1,000 Romanians, said as

many as 100 people would try to defect because they think Romanian President Ion Iliescu has subverted their revolution. "I was in the front lines of the revolution. I was beaten by the Securitate and arrested, then beaten by the police," said Nicolae Bucataru. "But now I see the system has not changed. I am very angry because many Bucharest people died for nothing."

Bucataru, 25, was working in a factory that makes eyeglasses when he heard on Dec 21 about the protests against communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He said he left his job and led a group of protesters to the Bucharest headquarters of Securitate.

Bucataru said he was hospitalized for two months with injuries to his head, face and ribs. After taking a job at a small

Bucharest newspaper, "Libertate," he heard that Iliescu's government was offering to send 1,000 people involved in leading the revolution to the World Cup as a reward.

Iliescu, a one-time Ceausescu protege who turned against his boss, took power after Ceausescu was overthrown. Iliescu was elected president by a huge majority in nation-wide elections last month.

But Bucataru and other would-be defectors contended the government planted 200 former Securitate and army officers among the 1,000-person delegation to the World Cup.

The presence of the alleged Securitate members has caused tension among the Romanians sleeping in tents and enjoying free food in Telese. Those trying to defect said the secret police were circulating

among them and threatening reprisals.

"I am afraid to go back to Romania," said Marian Baciu, 27, a metallurgist who went to Rome with Bucataru to seek asylum. "But my parents are old and I worry that Securitate will arrest them if I do not go back."

Young men talking excitedly about plans to stay in Italy dropped their voices to a whisper Sunday morning as some tent neighbours passed by. Would-be defectors speaking English to a reporter quickly switched to Romanian as one man neared.

Telese Mayor Pino D'Occio said representatives of 100 Romanians begged him Saturday to allow them to stay. But D'Occio said 30 others linked to the army asked to be sent home on the first available flight to avoid being confused with those seeking asylum.

## Welcome awaits Mandela in US

NEW YORK, June 17, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela will have Americans at his feet this week, fighting for a glimpse of him, hanging on his every word, buying T-shirts, jackets and caps bearing his name and donating millions of dollars to his cause.

Millions of Americans are waiting to cheer a man unseen and hardly heard from for more than a quarter of a century, a man who emerged unbroken from jail in South Africa in February to become the voice of oppressed black people around the world.

During a 13-day US tour starting on Wednesday, the black nationalist leader will receive a red-carpet welcome at New York's Kennedy Airport and a ticker tape parade down Broadway.

He will meet President George Bush at the White House and has invitations to address the United Nations, a joint session of Congress and a mass rally at New York's Yankee stadium.

His schedule is packed as tightly as a visit by Pope John Paul or Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — 34 events, ranging from motorcycle to meetings with business and political leaders, in eight cities from coast to coast.

Questions about his stamina abound. He is 71 but, as one organiser said, "he has lots of time to make up after spending 27 years in prison."

His visit follows a European tour during which he time and again demanded that sanctions against South Africa must be maintained until it abolished apartheid.

His first stop will be New York, a city reeling under the weight of racial tensions and presided over for the first time by a black mayor, David Dinkins.

He will spend three days as a guest of Dinkins at the mayor's official Gracie Mansion residence and his first event after arrival is the city's highest honour — a ticker tape parade down Broadway.

For his parade, the authorities have designed a special car — a bulletproof, "Mandela mobile" designed to let him be seen and protected at the same time.

Police likened the security arrangements to those accorded Gorbachev. The police overtime bill is expected to top one million dollars.

One controversy arose over Mandela's decision to meet three Puerto Rican nationalists, once convicted of attacking Congress in the 1950s, and honour them as former political prisoners.

Dinkins at first described the three as "assassins" but he later softened his tone, noting that they had been pardoned after serving 25 years in jail.

**Protests**

New York's large Jewish community has been working hard to prevent Jewish protests marring the visit. A handful of Jewish activists were upset by Mandela's comparison of Israel to South Africa and by his meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mandela went out of his way at a meeting in Geneva with US Jewish leaders to assure them that he supported Israel's right to exist and he praised Jews for their support in the fight against apartheid.

One activist, Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has led protests from Auschwitz to the Vatican, said he might hold a demonstration during Mandela's visit, even though he respected him and had long opposed apartheid.

"You have to be insane to give a ticker tape parade to a man who compares Israel to South Africa in a city that has the largest Jewish population in the world," he said. But he added that many people were urging him not to stage a protest.

From New York, Mandela will go to Boston and then to Washington next Sunday for the most important meeting of his trip. He will meet Bush and Secretary of State James Baker and address a joint session of Congress.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported recently that South Africa captured Mandela in 1962 as a result of a tip from a paid informant of the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Bush said he did not know if the story was true or if he would offer Mandela an apology.

From Washington, Mandela will go to Atlanta, where he will lay a wreath at the grave of America's great champion of civil rights, Martin Luther King, and then on to Miami, Detroit, Los Angeles and Oakland.

Mandela flew to Canada on Sunday after an overnight stay in Britain to visit his friend Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC).

Speaking to reporters at London's Heathrow airport, Mandela said:

"I met Mr Tambo here and he is recovering very well."

Adrian Lamfir, one of about 50 Romanians seeking political asylum holds up a newspaper clipping with his photo taken during the December 1989 Romanian revolution. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Romania pledges to uphold democracy

## US to withhold all but humanitarian aid

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 17, (AP): The government, seeking to contain damage to its image abroad, pledged today to play by democratic rules after earlier thanking coal miners who savagely attacked suspected opponents.

"The government is prepared to assure appropriate measures for freedom of political expression for all with the exception of acts of instigation and of neo-fascist propaganda," said the statement published today.

"It (the government) also demands that those responsible ensure the total freedom of operation of the democratic institutions of the press,

radio and television and ... instill firmly democratic institutions in our country," the statement said.

The statement was carried in the pro-government Adevarul newspaper. It contained no specific guarantees to individuals, groups and institutions targeted by the miners.

Tens of thousands of miners descended on Bucharest Thursday after president-elect Ion Iliescu appealed for support in the wake of violent clashes between police and demonstrators seeking to oust him and other former communists from politics.

Government critics and student leaders say Iliescu and other government leaders want to revive totalitarian rule.

The miners destroyed opposition party offices, shut down publications critical of Iliescu and his National Salvation Front, beat or threatened well-known opposition figures and clubbed Bucharest residents at random. They left Friday as they came, at the behest of Iliescu, who thanked them for their support in national television speech on Friday.

The government's statement appeared designed primarily to deflect indignation over the role played by Iliescu in the three days of mob rule of the capital.

Western governments and international human rights organisations condemned the violence.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States would withhold all but humanitarian aid, and the European Economic Community postponed a trade and economic co-operation agreement with Romania.

There was no clear indication why Iliescu had called on the miners, but government officials suggested the police had been ill-prepared to handle the demonstrators.

Iliescu said Saturday he was contemplating creation of a National Guard to protect the government and that it would be composed "of clean, loyal, honest people who can act responsibly at exceptional times."

"We know that we can rely on you," Iliescu told the miners Friday before sending them home, saying he had "made note" of some miners' wishes to join the paramilitary organisation.

Among the miners' targets was the headquarters of the National Peasant Party.

Standing there Saturday among shards of broken glass, smashed typewriters and furniture, party Secretary-General Liviu Petrescu said the struggle for democracy would continue.

"Emotionally we are ready to start today," he told a reporter. "Logically, it could take weeks."

The centre of the city was quiet today, precisely half a year after the outbreak of the half a year revolution that swept communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu from power.

The Romanian government yesterday said the Parliament would "debate the possibility of declaring a temporary moratorium on the (independence) act for a period during negotiations" with Moscow.

The Romanian government, under fire from the opposition and Western governments for suppressing dissent, pledged yesterday to probe complaints of vigilante action by miners and ensure they were not repeated.

It said it had no hand in the sacking by miners of opposition party offices — and vowed that its commitment to establishing democracy in Romania was irreversible.

Landsbergis stopped short of endorsing the proposal himself but said: "It is one of the possible formulas for discussion. We will discuss this formula and other



Bucharest quiet

A Romanian couple jokes with police guarding the Interior Ministry in Bucharest. The situation remained quiet after three days of violence. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bid to defuse tension with Moscow

# Lithuania votes Tuesday

## Communists split

### Reformists debate to break away

MOSCOW, June 17, (AP): Hundreds of reform-minded communists gathered yesterday to debate when and how to break away from the party and form an opposition group.

One leader of the Democratic Platform movement argued for an immediate break, saying that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would not be able to reform the Communist Party enough at a coming party meeting to avoid a split.

"The Communist Party cannot be reformed," said Igor Chubais, a philosopher and one of the leaders of Democratic Platform.

Democratic Platform, founded about six months ago, has counted among its members Boris Yeltsin, recently elected president of the Russian Republic; and the mayors of Moscow and Leningrad — Gavril Popov and Anatoly Sobchak.

But those leaders reduced their activities in the reform group when they took on government responsibilities.

The movement is now split on whether it should found a new party immediately and take hundreds of thousands of the Communist Party's 18 million members with them, or wait until after a national party congress that begins July 2.

The nation-wide gathering of Democratic Platform members is to decide that question before it wraps up its conference today.

Any split in the party would be the first since the time of Lenin. Although Chubais argued for an immediate break, others urged caution.

Vyacheslav Shostakov, rector of Moscow's higher party school, urged that the reformers wait until after the party congress when, he said, the party's inability to reform will be even clearer.

To move too quickly would risk worsening the country's tense political situation, he said.

and demands."

Asked whether Vilnius and Moscow could now find a compromise, Landsbergis, a leader of Lithuania to suspend its declaration of independence as a condition for talks with Moscow about the republic's future.

To back up his demands, Moscow has clamped an economic blockade on the republic, cutting off its supplies of oil and gas, and sent a division of Soviet paratroopers to occupy key public buildings in Vilnius.

But he said it was still not clear whether Moscow would accept the step Lithuania leaders are contemplating.

"At the Kremlin they often change their formulas and other

## Cracks appearing in Milosevic's Serbia

### Yugoslavia faces new crisis: protesters demand free polls

BELGRADE, June 17, (Reuters): Yugoslavia faces a new crisis after signs of rebellion appeared last week in the biggest republic, Serbia, where communist leaders have resisted a wave of democratic changes sweeping the country.

Western diplomats said that a 30,000 strong anti-communist protest in Belgrade last Wednesday indicated that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic no longer commanded the almost absolute authority he had held for the past three years.

There are nine million Serbs — the country's largest ethnic group — and they are considered pivotal for the country's future development.

The protesters demanded that free elections already held in two of Yugoslavia's six republics be conducted in Serbia by the end of the year. They chanted "Slobodan, you are a traitor" and burned Milosevic's picture.

But the announcement provoked a mixed response and was denounced at the rally as a plot by the communists to gain time and further postpone democratic reforms.

The rally sank Milosevic's vision of a

homogenous Serbian nation united behind the platform of the Serbian Communist Party, a Western diplomat said.

Serbian leaders have said that they will not hold elections until the republic adopts a new constitution, which could take one year.

Unlike reformist communists in Slovenia and Croatia who paved the way for free elections in April and May, Serbia's communist leaders have stalled on reforms and have not allowed opposition groups to register officially.

In an apparent attempt to counter criticism, the Serbian party said it would merge with the Socialist Alliance, a pro-communist umbrella organisation, into a new Socialist Party which would run in elections.

But the announcement provoked a mixed response and was denounced at the rally as a plot by the communists to gain time and further postpone democratic reforms.

Insistence on the primacy of the constitu-

tion is aimed at neutralising ethnic Albanian opposition parties in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo where they are likely to win a landslide victory in free elections.

The new constitution would limit the autonomy of Kosovo, where over 50 people have been killed in riots for greater freedom from Serbia.

The demonstration, the most serious challenge so far to Milosevic, was followed by a revolt by journalists of Serbia's rigidly controlled media.

Angered at what they said was biased reporting on the rally, journalists from the daily newspaper Politika and Belgrade Television, both of which reflect the views of the Serbian party, publicly disassociated themselves from the reports.

"Cracks are appearing in Milosevic's Serbia," a veteran Yugoslav journalist said. "It is hard to say how popular the opposition really is, but many people may vote for anyone just to get the communists out."



An old woman weeps during ceremonies in Timisoara. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Kohl, Maiziere in total agreement

EAST BERLIN, June 17, (Reuters): Chancellor Helmut Kohl said today West and East Germany have agreed on the wording of a joint parliamentary declaration guaranteeing Poland's post-war western frontier.

"We are in total agreement," Kohl said after meeting East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere in East Berlin following a joint session of the German parliaments to mark a 1953 anti-communist revolt in East Germany.

Kohl said he and De Maiziere discussed preparations for a co-ordinated parliamentary resolution recognizing the Oder-Neisse line as Poland's legal boundary. Its promulgation is tentatively scheduled for Thursday. The conservative West German chancellor had earlier

## World News Roundup

## Airlines

**Distance record:** A Boeing 767 has set an unofficial world distance record for twin-engine commercial airliners by flying 9,253 miles (14,888 km) nonstop from Seattle to Nairobi, Kenya. Boeing Commercial Airplane Group said.

The flight by a new 767-200ER, was completed Sunday and lasted 18 hours, 29 minutes. Boeing said Tuesday.

The plane was on the first leg of a flight to Royal Brunei Airlines, the national carrier of Brunei Darussalam. The country is on the island of Borneo in the Indonesian islands.

There were 20 passengers aboard and a flight crew of four. The aircraft, the first Boeing 767 for Royal Brunei's fleet, continued on to Brunei Monday.

Pending final verification, the National Aeronautic Association established the flight as a record, Boeing said. The previous record of 8,893 miles (14,308 km) was also set by a 767. (AP)

**Paintings scratched:** A vandal put deep scratches into three paintings, including one by Manet, at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

There have been no arrests in the case. Scratches were found in two 16th-century German works and in an 1880 painting by Manet, a French impressionist, said museum spokeswoman Lisa Austin.

The scratches were about as deep as a pen point, she said.

Three other paintings were found with faint pencil marks on them, but that marring was not thought to have been deliberate, or even recently done.

The German works damaged Friday were "Portrait of a Bearded Man" by Lucas Cranach the younger in 1538, and "Betrothal Portrait of a Lady" a 1558 work by Barthel Bruyn the younger. Both are part of the museum's permanent collection.

A scratch was found shortly after the gallery closed Thursday in Manet's "Still Life with Brocage," on loan from the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. (AP)

**Attack spurred:** A cat owner whose pet was bashed to death by his friends says he may have inadvertently spurred the attack when he shouted the animal's name — "Killer."

"I yelled out, 'Killer' and I think they misunderstood what I said," said Gary Hegler, 43, of Fort Gratiot township.

Michael Wood, 34, and John Zeros, 33, were arraigned Wednesday on charges of maliciously destroying an animal belonging to someone else. The offence carries up to four years in prison. They were released on \$3,000 bond.

Hegler, who was not charged, said his two friends were at his house Friday.

"One guy was petting the cat and it scratched him. The cat was thrown and it stunned the cat," he said. "I called out her name — 'Killer' I don't think they understood what I said." (AP)

**Shara returns from Turkey:** Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara returned on Sunday night from a trip to Turkey on border security and water issues of the Euphrates river.

The official Syrian News Agency (Sana) said Shara "stressed the need for reaching an agreement as soon as possible to guarantee a fair sharing of the Euphrates waters among Syria, Turkey and Iraq." (Reuters)

**Yemenis seek confidence vote:** The government of the three-week-old Yemeni republic outlined its policies to Parliament on Saturday, seeking its first vote of confidence.

Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas read a policy statement to the legislature. Radio Sana said a committee was formed to study the programme before a vote on Tuesday. (Reuters)

**Saddam, Saleh hold talks:** Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Yemeni counterpart Ali Abdullah Saleh, last night held a second round of talks on bilateral relations and latest Arab developments.

Saddam has reiterated Iraq's support to the Yemeni unity saying that the unification will have positive effects on the Yemeni people. (Kuwait)

**Conference in support of Iraq:** More than 700 Islamic figures from 70 countries started a conference in Baghdad on Saturday in support of Iraq against US and Israeli threats, Iraqi officials said.

They said the three-day conference, attended by endowment and religious affairs ministers, clergymen and other Muslims, was aimed at "drafting a unified plan to confront challenges and plots against Iraq, the Arab nation and Muslims in general." (Reuters)

**Ban on nationalist party:** The Algerian Supreme Court has upheld a ban on a nationalist party formed in the 1930s that turned against the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) during the 1954-62 war of independence from France.

The Party of the Algerian People (PPA), formed by Messali Al Hadj, was a pioneer in the Algerian fight for independence from French colonial rule but later fell out with the FLN. (Reuters)

**Mbayad visits Iraq:** The director-general of the Jordanian security police, Fadih Ali Mbayad, arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for talks with Iraqi officials, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency gave no details of the nature of the visit, believed to centre on co-operation of security affairs between the two neighbouring Arab states. (Reuters)

**Mengistu calls on Al Bashir:** Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has asked Sudanese military leader Gen. Omar Al Bashir for a summit meeting to "discuss pending issues between the two neighbouring countries," a senior Sudanese official said in Khartoum Saturday.

Acting Foreign Minister Abdalla Mohamed



**Kurdish rebels, army clash:** Seven soldiers and five Kurdish rebels were killed in three separate clashes in southeast Turkey on Saturday, official sources said on Sunday.

They said troops captured five insurgents and seized rifles, hand grenades and ammunition but gave no other details. (Reuters)

**First visit to Soviet Union:** Leaders of Israel's powerful Histadrut trade federation left on Sunday for their first visit to the Soviet Union since Moscow broke off diplomatic relations with Israel 23 years ago.

The two-week visit led by Histadrut secretary-general Yitzhak Keset was a sign of further improvement in ties severed by the Soviet Union during the 1967 Middle East war, spokesman Eliezer Matz told. (Reuters)

**Algerian film wins award:** Algerian director Rachid Boudjedra collected the best picture award at the sixth annual Tunis Film Festival Sunday with his feature "Louss."

A jury of Portuguese journalists gave Boudjedra the Golden Dolphin prize for a film telling the story of a disabled boy living with his sister in a remote Sahara desert oasis. (AP)

**Kibli, League to shift Nov 1:** Arab League secretary-general Chadi Kibli is to move to the new headquarters of the League in Cairo by November, according to a Qatari daily.

Al Raya, in an unsourced report, said that Kibli is to assume his duties at the new League headquarters on Nov 1 after the Arab countries decided to return the headquarters to Cairo. (Kuwait)

**Chernobyl pilot critical:** The condition of a Soviet helicopter pilot who helped contain the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has deteriorated following surgery for a lung infection and treatment for leukaemia and bone cancer, a Seattle hospital reported on Saturday.

Anatoly Grishchenko, 52, received a bone marrow transplant in April and has received radiation treatment for cancer.

"His condition is life-threatening. He can't breath without a respirator," said Susan Edmonds, spokeswoman for the Fred Hutchinson cancer research centre. She said his chances of survival did "not look good." (Reuters)

**Soviet MPs talk with inmates:** Inmates of a jail in Soviet Ukraine where at least two prisoners died in a riot last week set small fires on Sunday as a negotiating committee of parliamentarians heard their demands for better conditions.

"There are reinforced police patrols posted around the prison," a police spokesman said by telephone from Dnepropetrovsk. "But there is no more rioting, because of the commission's work." (Reuters)

**Egg-throwing protesters:** Left-wing demonstrators opposed to German unity threw eggs and firecrackers at West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl as he arrived in East Berlin on Sunday to mark an East German uprising 37 years ago.

Police behind steel barriers kept the flag-waving protesters well back from the steps of East Berlin's classical Schauspielhaus where German Unity Day, as the June 17 anniversary is known, was to be celebrated. (Reuters)

**Czechoslovakia's reds pledge:** Czechoslovakia's defeated Communist Party said on Saturday it would adopt a policy of constructive opposition to the new government led by the Civic Forum Movement, the state news agency CTK reported.

Efforts to wipe the party from Czechoslovakia's political map had only "united all who remained faithful to it," Jiri Machalik, a regional chairman, told a central committee meeting. (Reuters)

**Francophone summit on June 26:** The 16th Francophone summit, which is scheduled to begin next Tuesday in the city of La Baule, will discuss the development and the economic crisis of the African continent.

Twenty African leaders will be participating in the summit, which will be inaugurated by French President Francois Mitterrand. (Kuwait)

**Family members, who travelled to the small hospital with Mascio, echoed the doctor's report.**

"He looks great, he is alert and he is getting better and better by the hour," said a member of Mascio's family who asked not to be identified.

Mascio, who was diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome four years ago, came to the doctors with AIDS-related tumours on his lungs, tonsils and liver, four months after the procedure appeared to have helped an Atlanta walter with the deadly virus.

The yet-to-be-proven AIDS treatment is being watched with guarded optimism in the medical community, with some physicians expressing disapproval that the method is being widely publicised before being thoroughly tested.

Ahmed was quoted by the official Sudan News Agency, Sana, as saying that Mengistu made the proposal in a message to Gen. Al Bashir which was handed to him by Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Tisy Dinka who visited Khartoum. (Kuwait)

**Subversive' article:** The authorities seized the latest issue of the Tunisian Islamic fundamentalist weekly Al Fajr (dawn) because it contained an article considered subversive, its editor Hamadi Jebali said on Saturday.

He said he was also told by the Interior Ministry that the article labelled President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Jebali told Reuters the article was written by Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist movement Nahda. The movement is not officially authorised and Ghannouchi lives abroad. (Reuters)

**Moi orders end to debate:** Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, seeking to defuse what has become an increasingly violent debate on multi-party politics, Saturday ordered an end to such politics.

"Any further debate on multi-parties must stop with immediate effect — Kenya cannot afford to have a multi-party political system," Moi said. (UPI)

**Djibouti condemns defection:** Djibouti denounced on Sunday the defection of two of its diplomats in Washington, saying in a statement their asylum appeal had no substance as they had ignored orders to return home for investigation of disciplinary charges.

Colonel Ali Dahan and Abdulkadir Ali Awdal, ambassadors to the US on Friday they had asked for asylum in Canada and France because of what they described as official corruption and human rights abuses in their country. (Reuters)

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More than 200 people were in the school when it collapsed, including some younger brothers and sisters of students attending the secondary school. The young children had gone to join their brothers and sisters at the end of their school day. (AP)

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## Child votes in Algiers local polls: paper

Second time around for 5-year-old Imad, voted earlier in 89

ALGIERS, June 17, (AP): A child born in 1985 voted in local elections last week in which Algeria's rising Muslim fundamentalist party defeated the ruling National Liberation Front, the evening newspaper Horizons reported yesterday.

The Tuesday voting, the first free elections since Algeria gained independence from France in 1962, was the second time around for Imad Yaddaden. The French-language Horizons said he also voted in the February 1989 referendum which

opened the way to pluralism.

According to Horizons, Imad's father had tried to have his son's name removed from the voting list, where he was apparently mistakenly registered. Failing in his effort, he took his son to the polls with him in Al Harrach, near Algiers. Given his ballot and an envelope, Imad was sent into the booth to fulfill his citizen's duty. His father picked him up so he could place the ballot in a box, the paper said, calling Imad the world's youngest voter.

The forthright account of Imad's voting underscored criticism that the election for municipal and provincial council seats was riddled with fraud.

The Algerian League of Human Rights regretted yesterday the "irregularities and excesses which regrettably brought to light the failure of the administration in certain cases and recourse to undemocratic practices in others."

The Islamic Salvation Front won 853 of the 1,539 municipal councils at stake and

32 of 48 provincial councils. The FLN, which has ruled Algeria since its independence, carried 489 municipal councils and 14 provincial councils.

The official daily Al Moudjahid reported the fundamentalists' victory for the first time yesterday, reporting only that the Islamic Salvation Front had a majority in 55.4 per cent of the communes. It provided no editorial comment and did not carry statements by Salvation Front's leader, Abassi Madani.

## Israel keeps mum on new proposals

Cabinet meets: no steps to quell uprising discussed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17, (Reuters): Israeli officials insisted today that a new right-wing government would work for Middle East peace but declined to say what alternatives it would offer to a US proposal for talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Cabinet ministers said after their first meeting that the government had not discussed new steps to quell a 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cabinet Secretary Eliyakim Rubinstein denied press reports he had effectively rejected the US Secretary of State James Baker's formula for

## Israel cuts water flow

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17, (Reuters): Palestinians in a Jerusalem refugee camp who refuse to pay water bills and today they faced outbreaks of disease after the city council reduced supplies, says a force payment.

Shops and businesses throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed in response to a strike call by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, residents said. Transport was still running to let schoolchildren sit exams.

Imad Awad, 32, director of the Shufat refugee camp, told Reuters many homes in the camp were without running water following the council's reduction in supplies five days ago.

"We will not pay one shekel to the Israeli occupation authorities," Awad said. "We have not paid for water since the camp was established in 1966. Why should we start now?"

The municipality took the shop to force payment of 18 months in bills which the camp refuses to pay for political reasons.

Children queued with buckets in summer heat today at two communal taps. Camp residents said they had enough water only for drinking and could not flush toilets or wash regularly.

"No one has fallen ill yet, but we fear it is only a matter of time," said Awad, who gave the camp's population as 8,000.

A spokesman for the UN Palestinian relief agency said it was concerned about hygiene.

Jerusalem municipality spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer said the city council had cut supplies by about half as a punitive measure after 18 months of fruitless negotiations on payment.

"We all hope this step will bring negotiations to a close as soon as possible," she said. "Obviously we don't enjoy doing this but nobody can expect to get water for free."

The Observer newspaper said that water supplies to the Palestinian village of lower Jiflik were cut last Tuesday and had not been restored by the weekend.

Women and children from the village are forced to make dawn forays to get their water from the fields of the neighbouring Israeli settlement, the paper said.

■ Israeli Abi Nathan, who has travelled the world to talk peace with Arab leaders and has been jailed for it, celebrated the 17th anniversary of his floating radio station the Voice of Peace today.

■ A ranking Palestinian official has predicted that Israel is going to launch a new war on Arab countries, and Jordan in particular, but stressed that Israel "will not get out safe from this war."

In an interview with daily "Al Syyasah" newspaper, head of the PLO political department Farouq Kaddoumi said Israel is continuing its threats to the Arab countries.

### None from Arabs

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office received many telephone calls on Sunday voicing hopes for Middle East peace but none from Arab leaders who were invited to call.

A receptionist said Shamir's new cabinet, meeting for the first time, received dozens of congratulatory calls and several callers appealed for peace, but a spokeswoman said none came from Arab states.

Israeli Justice Minister Dan Meridor invited Arab countries on Saturday to call the prime minister's office at "Jerusalem 70555" to show they wanted peace.

Army radio broadcast the appeal after US Secretary of State James Baker publicly gave out the White House phone number—1-202-456-1414—and told Israel: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

## Steir appeals to lay down arms

Give Vatican plan a chance

BEIRUT, June 17, (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian Maronite Patriarch appealed today to the country's fighters to lay down their arms and give a Vatican peace plan a chance.

"We call today on all those carrying arms all over Lebanon to throw them aside and to resort to reason in response to peace efforts exerted by the Vatican," Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Steir told worshippers in Christ's east Beirut.

Steir backed the Vatican plan to end inter-Christian strife and the 15-year civil war but official sources said it had failed. Fresh fighting was reported today between rival Palestinian groups in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

The plan was presented to Lebanon's warring groups by Papal Nuncio Pablo Pueno.

The sources said the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hirawi had decided to reject the initiative and would inform Pueno when they meet in Muslim west Beirut tomorrow.

Under the leadership of Gen Emile Lahoud, army officers in southern Beirut are running a training programme for hundreds of enthusiastic youths recruited from across the war-ravaged country.

The young Lebanese, gathered at a poorly equipped camp near Beirut airport, received daily dawn-to-dusk intensive training. They grapple ropes attached to pine trees, jog noisily along the sand dunes

Pueno announced a ceasefire on May 26 between rival Christian forces loyal to General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, hoping to end four months of fighting in which at least 1,000 people were killed.

But the ceasefire had been breached every night along frontlines in the Christian enclave. People fear full-scale battles might flare again if a political solution is not reached soon.

The sources said the Vatican plan envisages Aoun and Geagea joining Hirawi's cabinet which would reconsider an Arab-brokered peace accord and revise proposed political reforms.

Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, a minister in Hirawi's cabinet, said Aoun or one of his representatives should join the government and fight the Arab accord from within the cabinet.

Aoun rejected the Arab agreement and refuses to recognise Hirawi. Geagea recognises Hirawi but says some aspects of the Arab peace accord should be renegotiated.

and learn to handle automatic weapons.

Senior officers close to Lahoud, 54, who was appointed commander of the Lebanese Army by the pro-Syrian cabinet, said the general was seeking to create a 3,000-strong group to "add new blood" to the regular force.

"There are 1,000 volunteers under training at several camps," said a high-ranking military official who requested anonymity. "In two months we will start training 2,000 others."

Lahoud, a highly educated Maronite Christian, was appointed to head the army by the government

## American criticism is unjust: Baghdad

BAGHDAD, June 17, (AP): The Iraqi government today branded criticism of its arms programme by US President George Bush's administration as "unjust and biased" and said Iraq has the right to defend itself.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun as saying that the United States does not want Iraq and the Arabs to "live in dignity and security and defend their rights and security."

Hamdoun's comments underlined a recent deterioration in relations between Iraq and the United States, mirroring a wider chill between much of the Arab world and Washington for its support of Israel.

Hamdoun was commenting on a statement by John Kelly, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, who said Friday that Iraq was on a collision course with the United States and the West over its drive to develop nuclear and chemical weapons.

Kelly was testifying before the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee in Washington.

The Bush administration is under growing congressional pressure to impose sanctions on President Saddam Hussein's government in Baghdad, because of alleged human rights violations and its buildup of long-range missiles, chemical weapons and other advanced military systems.

"This claim is unjust and biased against Iraq," Hamdoun declared.

He did not deny that Iraq is developing nuclear weapons, but said Kelly made his comments because "Iraq is committed to its rights and those of the Arab nation for security and stability."

"Iraq and the Arab nation have chosen the path of security and stability... but they also chose the path of dignity," he said.

Kelly testified that Iraq has "demonstrated a willingness to go to great lengths to develop non-conventional weapons."

But he ruled out economic sanctions against Iraq, primarily because the Bush administration does not believe they would be effective since other countries would not likely follow any US action.

Kelly noted that Washington has made its disapproval of Iraqi actions known through diplomatic channels, but said: "It is important to give the government of Iraq an opportunity to demonstrate that it can act to reverse this deterioration in relations."

Western concern that Iraq is building up its military might heightened in recent weeks after British authorities intercepted Iraq-bound devices that could be used for nuclear weapons triggers.

Britain, Switzerland and other countries have also seized components for what they believe to be an Iraqi "super gun" capable of firing rocket-boosted shells for hundreds of miles (kilometres).

They said the civilians from Kibbutz Eyal, less than three km (two miles) from the West Bank town of Kalkilah, had been watching for crop saboteurs when they seized the five on Thursday night.

Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's recent decision to end restrictions on Jewish emigration to Israel is a "historic opportunity" and a "turning point in Israel's history."

Speaking at the Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith's 77th annual national commission meeting in Manhattan, Rabin said Israel has not had such an opportunity in the past 40 years "to increase the Jewish community qualitatively and quantitatively," as it has now—as the result of the new Soviet policy.

The official Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the unity meeting was also attended by representatives of the Sunni Muslim Afghan rebel groups which are based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

But it gave no names of the Pakistani groups or representatives present.

Hojatoleslam Hussein Ibrahim, representative of Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, told the Afghan rebel leaders, "I hope that the formation of the party will help unify all the Shiite and Sunni forces in Afghanistan," Ima said.

The British foreign office today declined to confirm the meeting.

At least one British hostage could be freed if the British government expels author Salman Rushdie, accused by Iran of blaspheming Islam, a pro-Iranian religious leader said yesterday.

The British foreign office said the meeting was first proposed by Britain a month ago and is expected to be followed by further high-level meetings.

Britain, is hoping Damascus will use its influence with Tehran and Lebanon's pro-Iranian groups to speed the release of the UK hostages "as a first step to the possible re-establishment of relations," the paper added.

The newspaper said British overtures towards Damascus were linked to London's awareness of Syria's role in the recent release of an American hostage held by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon.

It said some British parliamentarians met in London last week with senior members of the Syrian community at a reception hosted by a Syrian businessman.

The two sides discussed a possible visit by British members of Parliament to the Syrian capital to pave the way for full restoration of ties, it added.

Parliamentarian Robert Adley indicated that such a visit could take place in the autumn, the paper said. Adley told a questioner he believed it would be

done.

While Lahoud has been keen on rebuilding the army, the United States, as the army's chief arms supplier, has been hesitant to send in more military equipment.

Military sources said Syria recently delivered 5,000 Soviet-made AK-47 rifles to Lahoud's army at the general's request.

"Shortly after I was appointed, American Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian sent me a message saying how can we help?" Lahoud said.

## Everything in short supply Refugees wait

AWEIL, Sudan, June 17, (AP): Aweil is a place where everything is in desperately short supply. Food, money, medicine, hope.

Especially hope, when survival can depend on whether the train from Muglad arrives.

As recently as December, 4,750 families waited in Aweil's refugee camp—about 30,000 people driven into the town by a seemingly endless civil war. Since then, despair has driven most of them back to the countryside, to the risk of death from war, lawlessness or famine.

Only a few hundred women, children and old men are in the camps now.

"Most of the families who left had been waiting for six to seven months for the relief train," said Mohamed Ali of the local relief committee. "They saw no ray of hope so they moved out to the villages, where they might find something to eat."

There is food at Muglad, a relief-distribution centre 160 miles (260 kilometres) north of Aweil at the northern terminus of a rail line. Goods shipped from Khartoum, the capital 450 miles (725 kilometres) to the northeast, are stockpiled there under Operation Lifeline-Sudan, a relief programme co-ordinated by the United Nations.

Operation Lifeline was created after the famine of 1988, which took between 250,000 and 500,000 lives and resulted from a civil war that has raged in the southern part of Africa's largest nation since 1983.

Black rebels in the south, which is predominantly Christian and animist, demand greater autonomy from the Arab, Muslim north.

The relief project was credited with preventing a recurrence of the 1988 disaster last year, but getting supplies into the area has been difficult.

Trains often are weeks or months late in making the 160-mile (260-kilometre) journey from Muglad to Aweil. Reasons range from the dilapidated track and the danger of land mines or attacks by rebels, renegade soldiers or bandits to bad weather, bureaucracy, inadequate equipment and the reluctance of crews to risk the trip.

At the end of May, a 150-car train with 1,500 tons of grain had been waiting at Muglad for six months.

"We have only 400 gallons (1,500 litres) of edible oil and nothing else," said the Rev. Akili Malweth, the local Roman Catholic bishop. "Our stores are as empty as a hungry man's stomach."

Four trains have brought supplies to Aweil since operation Lifeline began in 1989. On the return trip north, each carried thousands of people trying to escape and survive.

"Those who could not move out of the town are the poor, the old, the tuberculosis victims and the children," said Mohammed Ali, who also is the local representative of the Sudanese Commission on Relief and Rehabilitation.

Nearly all those remaining are women, children and old men. They are housed in two makeshift camps, and few have money to buy anything.

One camp has nine large huts that accommodate 20 families each, and the other in the town's school building. Aino Kolong, Aweil's education commissioner, said those who lived in the school cleaned it each morning before classes began.

The women, and many of the children, try to find work.

Refugee women till people's gardens and carry firewood and water from the centre of town to outlying houses in Aweil, which has a normal population of 11,000.

"Women have been in all sorts of jobs," said Majak Kharwaj, a resident of the town. "Even building houses, which traditionally has been a man's job, is now being done by women."

"Even if the refugee women can find work, they seldom make enough money to buy food."

A cup of tea costs 10 Sudanese pounds, nearly 85 cents, double the daily wage for the best-paying jobs available.

"They cannot afford to buy one sack of sorghum at the unimaginable price of 900 pounds," or \$75, for the 88-pound (40-kilogramme) bag, Kolong said.

## UK, Syria in secret talks

### Bid to restore ties

LONDON, June 17, (Reuters): Syrian and British officials have met secretly in New York to discuss possible restoration of diplomatic ties cut more than three years ago after London accused Damascus of links with terrorists, a leading Arab newspaper said today.

The London-based Ashar

# 12,470 new residence permits issued in May

## 21,700 visit visas

THE Immigration Department at the Interior Ministry issued last month 12,470 new residence permits to expatriates and cancelled at the same time 9,817 residences. In a press release issued by the public relations department at the ministry it was announced that the four immigration departments in the various governorates also renewed over 30,000 residences.

Among other applications the departments completed during the month of May was transferring the sponsorship of 6,426 labourers, issuing 1,702 temporary residences, opening 1,661 files for new sponsors and also issued 9,822 work permits.

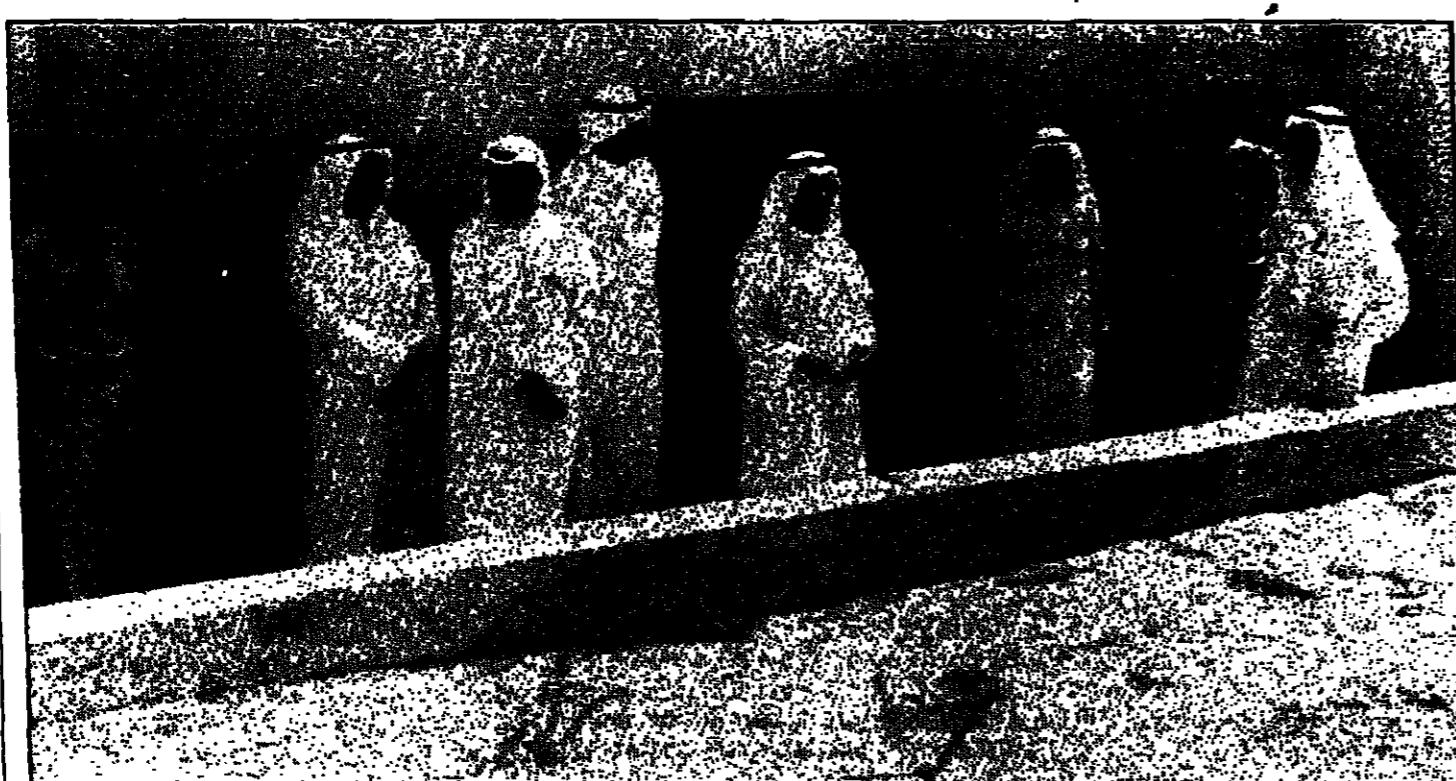
The release added that of the work permits issued, the majority went to maids

and domestics with 7,951 followed by labourers in the private sector with 1,304 permits, 742 family permits and 95 government work permits.

### Visit visas

The four governorates also issued over 21,700 visit visas, a remarkable increase over previous months. Most of these were

family visit visas, about 12,700, and the remaining were business visas, over 9,000. The immigration department also issued 1,246 permits allowing expatriates to stay for over six months outside Kuwait. Expatriates who stay for over six months outside Kuwait without giving a good reason or without obtaining prior permission, will get their residences cancelled.

**80th Infantry visited**

Upon directives from the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Sheikh Sabah Al Nasser visited the 80th Mechanical Infantry of the Kuwait Army. Sheikh Sabah was escorted by the director of the Engineering Affairs Department, Fahad Al Jaleel.

Upon their arrival at the infantry unit, they were received by the director of the infantry operation Col Fahad Al Mhana and a number of army officers.

After the visit, Sheikh Sabah held a meeting with all workers at northern centres in the country.

## Merchants accuse co-op union of gross malpractice

### Pricing committee to reign

THE co-operative movement in Kuwait particularly co-operative societies and the Consumer Co-operative Societies Union was the focus of accusations directed by many merchants and food manufacturers during the fourth meeting which was held recently. The continuous control over the union by the prices committee had curtailed their malpractices, sources said.

The fourth diwania meeting was attended by over 70 foodstuff companies representing 90 per cent of merchants in the local market. They jointly demanded more freedom from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the only authority representing the co-operative movement in the country. They said that freedom of trade will result in stronger competition in the market.

One of the merchants at the meeting indicated that the availability of goods in the market will ensure a more stable price in the market adding that competition is evidently to the benefit of consumers, merchants and manufacturers and will also be of greater interest to the co-operative movement in the country.

### Relations

Head of the Foodstuff Merchants and Manufacturers Union, Abdulla Al Bajian pointed out that every effort has been exerted by the committee members towards strengthening relations with Kuwait Municipality and the Consumers Co-operative Societies Union.

He stated that a meeting was held with the head of the union who extended great understanding to all problems. He indicated a committee formed by the union will study the possibility of forming a new pricing committee at the union.

He said that they hope that the study will address the interest of union members regarding the free of charge goods issue. The union head promised to take strong measures to prevent this phenomenon.

### Pricing

Bajian pointed out that communications were carried out with the Merchants Union and the Commerce and Industry Chamber regarding a letter raised to the governor of Kuwait Central Bank in order to release restrictions imposed by co-operative societies upon merchants and food producers. The letter suggested that measures should be taken to bring back freedom to merchants and food companies in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the pricing committee at Kuwait's Co-operative Societies Union, Fadi

Al Mutawa was quoted as saying that all consumer goods must be priced by the committee.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that all merchants will be called upon to submit evidence to prove the cost of the goods on the basis of which the committee will unify the prices of such commodities at all co-operatives.

This step is intended to curtail abnormal profits presently being made by the co-operative societies. This will put an end to the practice of the past which permitted co-operative societies to unilaterally define the prices of consumer goods in supermarkets.

This move has received unanimous backing of the public and this has prompted the union to currently undertake the possibility of conducting collective purchasing deals on behalf of the co-operative societies. This will facilitate obtaining quality goods at optimum prices and discontinue the malpractice of complementary goods which negatively affects both co-operative societies and the consumers.

The union obtains prices of commodities from world-wide sources and concludes contracts with suppliers valid for a period of one year.

### Committee

Meanwhile, the official said that the union had recently set up a committee entitled "Prices Development Committee" which groups representatives from the union, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait University and a number of general managers at co-ops.

The committee's functions are to upgrade and modernise the policy of the pricing committee and to present its report to the board of directors of the union within one month. The report will include measures to be followed by the pricing committee which should be based on ensuring consumer protection.

The official said that the union is currently involved in undertaking a comprehensive study to overcome obstacles impeding the co-operative march in the country. He added that the committee had recently requested co-operative societies to abide by the resolutions and circulars issued by the Irish Ambassador to Kuwait.

The dramatic changes that took place in socialist countries coupled with the withdrawals of subsidies on some consumer goods in some East European countries had led to the current price hike and the pricing committee at the union could not be held accountable for this increase, Mutawa said.

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## Collins leaves for Cairo

KUWAIT, June 17, (Kuna): Irish Foreign Minister and current EEC chairman, Gerard Collins, left here today heading for Cairo on a one-day official visit.

During his two-day stay here, Collins met with His Excellency the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Collins also held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Attiba and Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamam.

Talks between Collins and the officials centred on bilateral relations, the Arab-European dialogue, Gulf-European dialogue, the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question.

The Soviet Jewish exodus to occupied Palestine and the situation in Lebanon were also tackled.

The Irish top diplomat was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Ossami, acting Foreign Minister under-secretary Faisal Al Mutawa and the Irish Ambassador to Kuwait.

The agency said that Khalifa, who is visiting Paris at the invitation of his French counterpart Jean Pierre Chevenement, is to discuss means of enhancing co-operation between the two countries especially in military fields.

It said that a number of senior army officers will accompany Sheikh Khalifa on his visit, duration of which was not announced.

## Electricity network maintained

DIRECTOR of the Electrical Distribution Networks Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Engineer Jasem Jamal said the maintenance works for equipment at main and secondary transformation stations are carried out during the lowest electrical pressures on networks as of mid-October until the end of April each year.

He added that other equipment at the ministry facilities should be constantly maintained and tested regularly. He pointed out that consumers are not affected with most maintenance works carried out by the ministry. All works are conducted without cutting off electrical power unless work is carried out on low and intermediate pressure networks. In these cases electrical cutouts last 4-5 hours at the most.

He stated that one of the primary difficulties faced is the shortage in the number of technicians at the ministry which takes years to be solved.

Subhi told the official Oman News Agency that the message comes in the framework of continuous co-operation and negotiations between the two countries.

He added that the message also deals with bilateral issues of common interest.

## Teachers angry with shortened vacations

### Students also affected

TEACHERS at the Ministry of Education strongly slammed the officials for extending the scholastic year this year for over two weeks. Interviewed by the magazine of the Kuwaiti Teachers Association "Al Mualem" (The Teacher), a number of teachers blamed the ministry for undermining their rights of having a full summer vacation of three months. The Ministry of Education has for the first time this year extended the duration of the scholastic year by over 2 weeks. Teachers of primary schools and kindergartens went on summer vacation on June 13, teachers of intermediate schools start their vacation on June 20 while secondary teachers will have to wait till June 28 to begin their summer holidays. In previous years, all government teachers summer vacations started before June 10.

### Deprivation

Most years, the summer vacation started in the first few days of June and teachers resumed work in the beginning of September. This year, though the vacation started over two weeks late, teachers are required to resume duty on September 1, thus cutting down the summer vacation from the customary 3 months to just about 2 months.

### Advantage

Principals of schools complained that extension of the academic year greatly affects the examination programmes with

the view that many Kuwaiti teachers go for their annual military recruitment. The teachers said that although the academic year has been extended the syllabus has remained the same. So, the teachers said, the cause of extending the year was not to complete an "uncompleted" syllabus or to increase illustrations for students. They added that the Ministry of Education has been reducing the summer vacation gradually year after year and now it has become only 2 months. Previously the summer vacations were for 3 months. The teachers emphasised that the work nature of teachers differs greatly from the rest of the government employees and their only benefits were the three months summer holidays they were getting. Now even this benefit has been taken away. The teachers warned that if the ministry policy continues this way, many teachers, particularly Kuwaitis, will opt out of this profession.

The teachers said that studying under the scorching heat of the sun in the desert is harmful for students even if the classes are air-conditioned. Some teachers said that the productivity of teachers will be greatly affected along with the performance of students in their examinations.

**Paaet training course**

A proctorship training course, organised by the Vocational Development Centre of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet), was concluded here yesterday.

The conclusion ceremony was attended by the director-general of the authority Dr Abdurahman Al Muallan and the director of the centre Dr Ahmed Bu Zabbar.

The training course was attended by 18 participants from the teaching staff of Paaet and its centres.

Pictures shows Muallan with the graduates.

## Emirates launches flight to Singapore

SINGAPORE, June 17, (Kuna): Emirates Airlines of the United Arab Emirates today launched its inaugural service to Singapore when its flight EK 648 touched down at Changi International Airport here.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore announced that Emirates will operate two weekly services to Singapore on the Dubai-Colombo-Singapore route, using A310-300 aircraft.

The flights will arrive here on Sundays and Thursdays at 4:35 pm and depart on the same day at 11:55 pm.

Emirates is the third scheduled airline company from the Middle East to fly to Singapore. Saudi Arabia and Jordan's Royal Jordanian are the other two.

Singapore and the UAE concluded an air services agreement on March 17, 1987. The republic now has agreements with 11 countries in the Middle East.

Apart from the UAE, the others are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Republic.

The latest air service means that Singapore is now linked by scheduled airlines to 110 cities through 1,786 weekly flights.

## Warning

THE Ministry of Interior has warned parents from allowing their children to sell paper tissues and other articles at traffic lights on major crossroads. In a press release issued yesterday the ministry said that these kids endanger their lives and the safety of drivers by selling various articles on traffic lights.

The ministry described such behaviour as "uncivilised" and warned that it will subject the children to legal action.



## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

GOD bears with the wicked, but not forever—*Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish writer (1547-1616)*

## Workers pose dilemma

## Romanian govt faces difficulty

BUCHAREST, (AP): Vasile, a chief engineer at the state-run Republica pipe factory, is watching his step these days.

He would like to crack down on his workers, who have been slacking off since the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December.

But he doesn't dare.

"If I punished them for not working hard, tomorrow they would ask me to leave the factory," he said, pointing to a group of workers smoking at an outdoor picnic table.

Vasile's dilemma is one piece of a problem faced by Romania's newly elected government. It has inherited one of Eastern Europe's most inefficient economies. But it cannot radically change the system without risking the loss of a key group of supporters—blue-collar workers.

## Benefited

Such workers, who make up about 40 per cent of Romania's labour force, have benefited greatly from the anti-communist uprising.

Caught up in the revolutionary fervour last December, they held strikes at factories across the country to force the ouster of top communist managers. Then, in an exhilarating taste of freedom, they elected their new bosses.

"Of course they are nicer to us," said Alexandru, 25, a laminator at the Republica plant, who like others gave only his first name. "Because if they aren't, we might fire them."

The National Salvation Front, which took power after the revolution, quickly solidified its support by reaching out to blue-collar workers.

It increased pay and vacation time and established a five-day work week, instead of the six- or seven-day week common under Ceausescu. In the recent election campaign, it promised to move gradually toward a free-market economy and to avoid the painful unemployment expected in other East European countries.

The Front and its presidential candidate, Ion Iliescu, were rewarded with big wins in the May 20 elections.

Now they have to figure out how to make their industry more competitive without losing their legitimacy with workers.

"It is a challenging job," admits Eugen Dijmarescu, a economic adviser to the interim government who is expected to emerge as a key planner in the new administration.

Under communist rule, Romania was converted from an agricultural to an industrial nation. Its economy has suffered problems typical of Eastern European nations: low-quality production, an overemphasis on unprofitable heavy industries and inefficiency due to central planning.

## Obsolete

But its equipment is even more obsolete than its neighbours' since Ceausescu slashed imports in the past decade to pay off the country's foreign debt.

Since the revolution, the economy has deteriorated further. The hard-currency trade balance has plunged from a \$2.5 billion surplus in 1989 to a deficit of \$400 million by April, according to government figures. The reason is government imports of consumer goods.

Meanwhile, industrial production is down nearly 20 per cent for the first four months of 1990 compared with the same period last year, government figures say.

This drop is due to several factors, including the closing of some unprofitable plants and the reallocation of resources such as electricity from factories to homes.

Factory managers say it is also due to workers' feeling free of past constraints to work.

"This is how they view democracy," commented Vasile. "Everyone does what he wants but still gets full pay."

Stuart Dunley, senior executive of the English firm Rindalbourne Ltd, which buys textiles from a dozen Romanian factories, noted many plants had eliminated the unpopular overnight shift since the revolution.

## Working hours

Combined with the cut in working hours, "the effect on production is rather dramatic," he said.

Dijmarescu, the economic adviser to the government, said the new government would end some of the salary benefits it recently had given workers.

He said the government planned to form stock-issuing companies in all industries except electricity, gas production, oil and railways. The shares initially will be owned by the government but will gradually be sold to private investors, he said. He added that Romania would also likely borrow money from abroad.

The managing boards of factories will be allowed to set wages and the level of private ownership, he said. If they cannot make a profit, they will be allowed to go bankrupt.

"If you put the companies in such a position, they (workers) will be interested in making changes," he said.

Some say the Front might never carry out its privatization plan because it is divided between young technocrats who favour broad economic changes and former communists who oppose them. There is also the added resistance of blue-collar workers.

At the Republica pipe plant, the workers taking a coffee break said they were not worried about economic change.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1757 — Holy Roman Empire forces defeat Prussia's King Frederick II at Kolin, Czechoslovakia, and he loses 13,000 of his 33,000 troops.

1779 — French forces take St Vincent in West Indies.

1812 — United States declares war against Britain.

1815 — British under Duke of Wellington, and Prussians under Gerhard von Blucher defeat France's Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo.

1823 — King John VI annuls Portuguese constitution of 1822 after uprising against his rule and the loss of Brazil.

1881 — Germany, Austria and Russia sign secret alliance, "Three Emperors' League," for three years.

1940 — Germans capture French port of Cherbourg in World War II.

1952 — British plan for Central African federation is announced.

1953 — Egypt is proclaimed a republic with Gen M. Naguib as president; South Korea releases 26,000 non-communist North Korean prisoners.

1961 — Three princes of Laos meet in Zurich, Switzerland, and agree to form coalition government to unite the war-ridden kingdom.

1965 — Air Vice-Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky assumes office as premier of South Vietnam and vows to spur war against Viet Cong.

1968 — Britain's House of Lords rejects Labour government's sanctions against Rhodesia.

1975 — Slayer of Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is publicly beheaded in front of government palace in Riyadh.

1985 — US space shuttle discovery, with Saudi Arabian prince aboard as passenger, launches a satellite for Arab world.

1987 — Israel condemns decision by Pope John Paul II to grant audience to Austria's President Kurt Waldheim.

1988 — Turkey's Premier Turgut Ozal is wounded slightly by gunmen as he addresses party convention in Ankara.

1989 — Afghan airliner crashes in Iran after gunmen seize plane and struggle with the pilot.

## Russia: the second coming

## Yeltsin might put it back on the map

MOSCOW, (UPI): Russia may stretch from the Baltic across Siberia to the Pacific but it is just one of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union. Boris Yeltsin might change that.

Even though most people around the world identify Russia so closely with the Soviet Union that the two are nearly synonymous, the Russian federation constitutionally has no more rights than the tiny Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, or Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Caucasus.

The Russian federated Soviet socialist republic is of course the heart of the Soviet empire, benefiting from Azerbaijani oil, cotton from the republic of Uzbekistan in Central Asia and the steel and coal of the Ukraine.

## Czars

So staggering is Russia's breadth that the czars of old styled themselves sovereigns "of all the Russias" — as did the Russian Orthodox Church's patriarchs.

Under the czars, the nation was known as Russia, or the imperial Russian empire, including Poland and Finland as well as the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

But Vladimir Lenin's communists, after taking power in November 1917, eventually renamed their country the Soviet Union and made the Russian federation one of its republics, stripping Russia of pre-eminence.

In the land of communist ideology, the Russian federation does not have its own academy of sciences like other republics or its own Communist Party.

The 140 minorities of the world's most ethnically diverse country say Russia does not need such institutions because Russians dominate both the nationwide party and the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

But Russian nationalists now demand their own institutions, including a powerful, independent Parliament such as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has allowed to be elected in the other republics. In Yeltsin, who last month was elected chairman of Russia's new Parliament and thus the equivalent of president, the deputies feel they have found a leader with the stature to recoup the prominence they feel is their land's due.

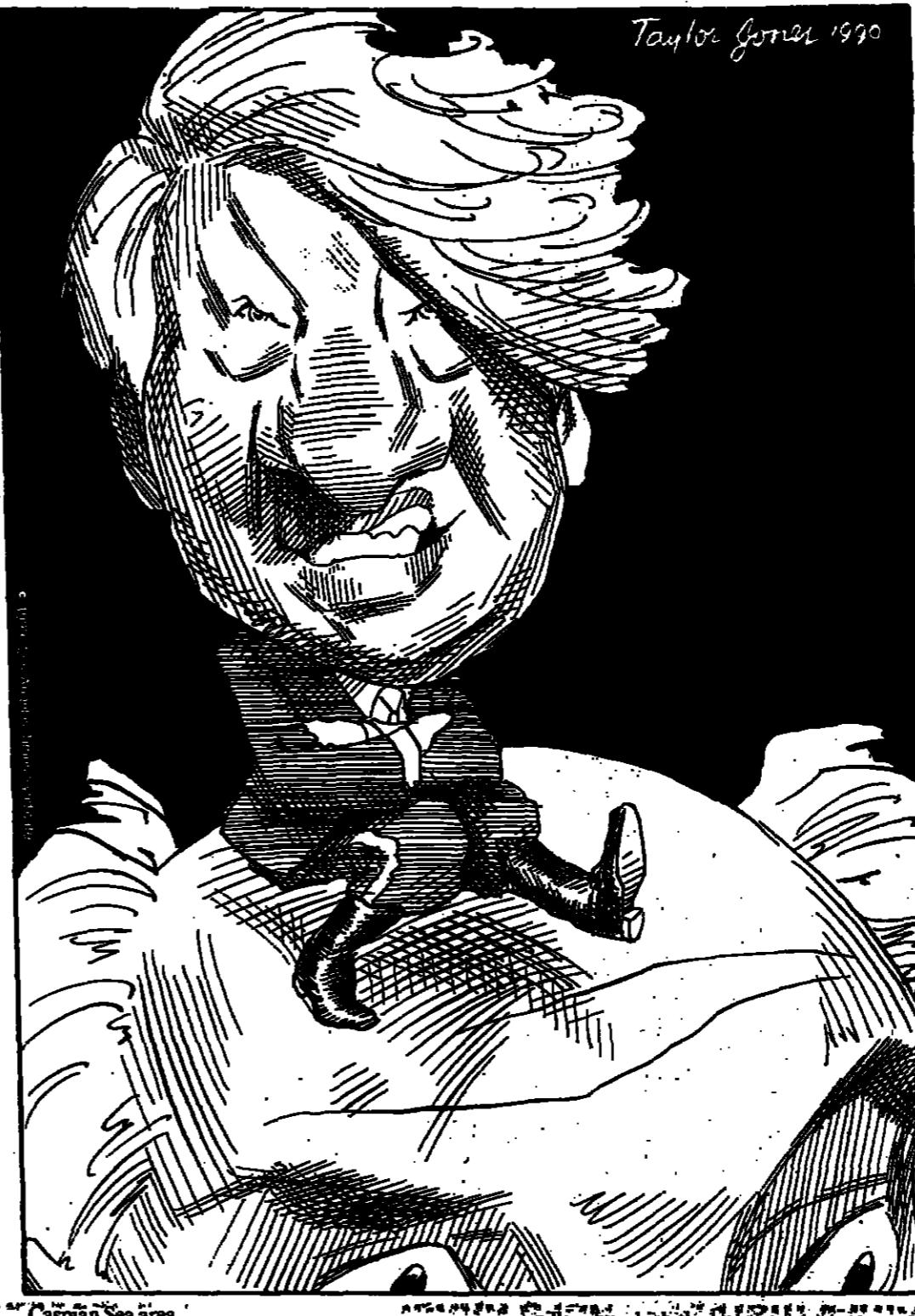
Second only in renown to Gorbachev, Yeltsin has been a bitter rival of the Soviet president ever since Gorbachev oversaw his firing as Communist Party boss of Moscow and his expulsion from the Politburo.

He earned his twin cashiers by telling Gorbachev, in front of the entire Communist Party leadership, that perestroika was going nowhere. But the voters sent him to the Soviet Parliament and then to the Russian one with the biggest mandate of any candidate.

To lead the Russian republic's resurgence, the burly Siberian first will have to crack the rigid, centralised system with which the ruling Communist Party and its Kremlin-appointed ministers have ruled the 15 republics.

Further emasculating the republics' powers is the central planning system that deprives them of any say in how their resources are used and that can, off a whim, divert fish catches from Vladivostok to the Caspian Sea area.

The party's monolithic power and the centralised non-market economy have been the two interlocking pillars by which the huge country, spanning 11 time zones over two-thirds of the world's land surface, has been ruled.



## The return to the old Russia

## Award winners

SIR: Though the plays, presented at the Indian Arts Circle did not represent the best in each language, many of them were very good and the Indian community in Kuwait is very much obliged to the organisers and Indian Arts Circle for the encouragement given to the theatre.

Selecting the award winners is the most difficult part of any competition, especially when it is of aesthetic importance. Making honest decisions are as important as convincing the public of the fairness of the decisions. It was unfortunate that the organisers did not learn from last year's mistakes.

It is possible that each member of the jury evaluate the dramas, acting talent and the technical aspects of the plays differently. But that does not make a result which is far from truth. Like last year, this year too, the members of the jury have been taken for a ride by the organisers and one wonders how any man of self-respect would stand such manipulation at the hands of the organisers.

Many, who have sat through the plays will disagree with the announced result, the more with the best actress and best actor awards.

Awarding the actress, who had but a mediocre role to perform with best actress title was an insult to the lady herself, especially when glaring examples of good performances are there like that of the old woman in "Kothu."

Actors can be of similar calibre, but two actors sharing an award is something unheard of. Both Madhu and V.J. Antony are good actors, no doubt. But the award was for the role they performed! Anyone who saw both the plays would agree that the graveyard keeper of Madhu was no better than the shadow of the old man in "Kothu." If the organisers wanted to reward their beloved, they should have looked for more decent means.

The reporting of the same in a leading local newspaper was adding insult to injury. When reporting on a drama competition results, order of reporting would be best play, best director, best actor, best actress and so on. Ignoring the play that won three awards to an obscure corner and highlighting the names of the actor that shared an award and the best actress was the ugliest face of journalism. The newspaper also have an equal responsibility in promoting fair play. If they cannot do that, please at least spare the agony.

On second thought, the caption is right. "Madhu and Madhuri did steal the limeight" literally.

Jacob Thomas,  
Salimya

## Biggest spill

SIR: The control of fire on the oil-laden vessel crippled and leaking in the Gulf of Mexico, as reported in your newspapers, was a great relief for environmentalists and people who care for the planet Earth.

The firefighters prevented what could have been the biggest spill in US history. Mega Borg, which contained 38 million gallons of light crude oil would have brought an environmental catastrophe of greatest magnitude if the fire could not have been contained. The sinking of the ship and

breakup would have spewed out three times the size of the 11 million gallons spilled from Exxon Valdez off Alaska last year.

The ship, fiercely ablaze, was just 57 miles south-east of Galveston, Texas. Although the source of the explosions is not known, it is now seriously being questioned how dangers can be contained with these carriers of catastrophe carrying millions of tons of crude oil. When a catastrophe hits such a carrier, the oil spills threaten entire coastlines and ecological disasters follow. Such goliath vessels, which are already fatigued and battered after a quarter of a century of service, are still plying the high seas.

In response to the fire on Mega Borg, Shell suspended all crude shipments to US fearing huge liability claims in the event of an oil spill. This is the first of its kind decision by a large oil company and is representative of the fear which has now been incorporated as a result of claims against Exxon after the Valdez spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. This has cost Exxon \$2 billion in cleaning efforts, excluding penalties for its role in Alaska of

Transportation

Shell's move is directed towards efforts to avoid involvement of mega oil companies in carrying out activities in environmental sensitive transportation of oil. This handling of the spills by these mega carriers raises serious doubts on the claims of oil industry. In case of Mega Borg, two days were wasted before the equipment arrived from Holland to put out the fire and a day to set up the equipment. The second concern is that of regulation of the tanker industry in the absence of proper training of deck officers and engineers to handle oil spills.

There has to be a code of conduct which the mega oil companies should adhere to. The profits on transportation could not justify the unlimited and uninsurable risk involved and, therefore, mega oil companies like Shell can easily take their hands off transportation sector leaving it to smaller companies which may be unable to meet large claims in case of a spill and be liquidated leading to even less regulation and less safeguard because the smaller companies with not much high stakes involved will be more concerned with transportation profits than maintenance and competence of first class ship and its crew.

If all mega oil companies decide to suspend oil deliveries and wash their hands off the environmental sensitive transportation sector of black oil, then what we are sure of is higher number of accidents because the stakes will be much lower. The mega oil companies should not be allowed to wash their hands off the transportation to avoid enormous liability claims, as faced by Exxon. One cannot compartmentalise the profits of oil companies. Exxon cash flow in 1990 is expected to hit \$11 billion; in 1989, Exxon wrote off \$1.68 billion for spill-related costs, including \$300 million which they added in February 1990.

Since Feb 27, when settlement talks between the Justice Department and Exxon broke, an Anchorage jury charged Exxon with two felonies and three misdemeanours. The indictment is US government's most significant criminal pollution case ever. If convicted on all counts, Exxon faces probation and penalties likely exceeding \$700 million. This would include cost of cleaning up of the \$11 million crude oil barrel and restoring Prince William Sound. There are other more than 180 civil suits against Exxon upward of \$400 million in lost income and punitive damages.

If the government wins a conviction, then it could not have a very devastating effect on Exxon's balance sheet. Exxon has already fully provided and written off nearly \$2 billion for such costs. How would a smaller Bahama-based company with a capital of \$5 million and with a leased tanker operated by such a company face up claims if their leased tanker spilled oil equivalent to what Valdez did? It would just close its shop and any government or environmentalist would have no recourse.

The US Congress is in the process of passing a bill to set up a \$1 billion trust fund financed by an oil tax so as to counter oil spill problems. They are also taking the helm in search of safer oil tankers. Both House and Senate have passed measures that would require new oil tankers operating in US waters to have far better oil spill protections such as double-layered hulls; all older vessels will have to be retrofitted with double hulls. Already twenty four double-hulled tankers have been built carrying toxic chemicals.

According to coastguards, such a buffer would have reduced the Valdez spill by as much as 60 per cent.

The mega oil company like Dupont has shown concern on cost and Exxon complains that its present decapacitated 200-ton vessel, Valdez, would need as much as \$80 million if a doubled hull is added, but it would not be hard in a decade to quickly convert approximately 1,500 foreign flag tankers and 160 domestic ships as the cost of ship safety measures would be passed on and add less than a penny a gallon at the pump.

The National Academy of Sciences is also looking at ways to prevent oil spills. The group is assessing double-hulled vessels, the use of protective, supposedly, rupture-proof membranes or bladders. They are also studying hydrostatic techniques, but the most important of all of this is that the well financed and sophisticated companies should not be allowed to abandon activities in environmental sensitive companies. Putting the fear of crime into corporations has led economists to believe that the penalties efficiently deter corporate wrongdoing.

The five-court indictment returned by the grand jury in Anchorage resulting in fines up to \$700 million are penalties which are several times higher than the harm they inflict on societies. The Sentencing Commission has proposed that fines should average about twice the size of damages. In Exxon's case, just three years ruined fishing in Prince William Sound has cost the local fishing industry \$300 million cost in lost revenue. Then, according to optimal punishment theory, the estimated total damages of \$700 million penalty makes sense.

The larger corporations by detaching themselves from ecological and environmental sensitive areas want to put off the fear and hence avoid the spending on regulation and compliance. This should be avoided at all costs.

Iqbal Latif,  
Kuwait

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

China  
Yunnan ethnic minorities give less trouble

KUNMING, China (AP): Yunnan province's 24 colourful minorities are a public relations boon for Beijing, but the picture-postcard image of ethnic groups happily dancing and singing is often a facade.

Many minorities face poverty, illiteracy and isolation. Some find their cultural existence threatened by years of forced assimilation by the surrounding Han Chinese.

The minorities in this remote, mountainous province of southwest China give the government little trouble compared to Tibetans and the Muslim minorities of Xinjiang, who have demonstrated violently for independence.

An old Sanyi woman selling hand-embroidered bags, seat covers and aprons in Kunming, the provincial capital, flashed a gap-toothed smile and proudly told a visitor she belonged to the Chinese Communist Party and had served in the local People's Congress.

## Remote

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Despite efforts

### Iranian currency plunges

NICOSIA, June 17. (Reuters) The Iranian rial plunged against the dollar on the black market today despite a new government effort to bring foreign exchange dealings under control.

The dollar was trading for 1,420 rials, up 120 since Friday and a 12 per cent premium over a new importers' rate established yesterday.

Banks in Tehran now sell dollars to importers of non-essential goods for 1,270 rials — much closer to black market rates.

Iran's official exchange rate, 70 rials to the dollar, is used mainly for imports of basic food and medicines. A preferential rate of 800 rials to the dollar remains in force for imports of machinery and raw materials for factories.

The new importers' rate is part of a Central Bank campaign to break the unofficial foreign exchange market in Tehran and other cities, to which the government in the past turned a blind eye. The rial is also traded in the Gulf, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and London.

The Central Bank said on Tuesday it had issued 115 licences to moneychangers and banned foreign currency dealings by unauthorised individuals.

Ali Pakpour, a London-based money-dealer, said: "I have sold so many dollars in the past two days that I have no more left. I can't cope with demand. The situation is much worse than before the government introduced its new importers' rate."

Pakpour said he expected the dollar to rise to 1,500 rials in a near future.

The trend is upwards and the government's decision to arrest unauthorised moneychangers has only led to panic. People with hard cash are hanging on to it in anticipation of higher rates," Pakpour said.

## Record profit for KPC

KUWAIT, June 17. (AP) The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. posted a record profit of \$41 million dinars (\$1.2 billion) last year, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa announced today.

Sheikh Ali, who heads the corporation's board, said in its annual report that the total marked a 142 per cent increase, more than 200 million dinars (\$700 million), over the 1988 profits.

The Kuwait corporation ranks eighth among the world's oil industry giants.

Sheikh Ali said it "realised a capital gain of 15 per cent and an annual average of 20 per cent throughout the nine years of its existence during which the values of its assets has increased four-fold."

The corporation has been expanding its exploration and production operations around the world, including acquiring refineries and downstream projects in Europe.

"The KPC has gained for itself a renowned and influential position in the oil industry worldwide," Sheikh Ali said.

Among the corporation's recent acquisitions was a \$300 million takeover of Mobil Italia.

The corporation also owns three refineries with a total capacity of 220,000 barrels a day in Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark and more than 5,000 gas stations in several European countries.

The report was published as the oil and petrochemical industries' union decided to call off a strike scheduled for today to press for pay hikes.

The workers are already among the best paid in the Arab world.

## FOR RENT

New deluxe villa in Shamiya for an embassy or ambassador

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## Bright forecast for services sectors

THE services sectors in the six Gulf states account for a sizeable percentage of the region's GDP, averaging close to 46.8 per cent in 1988. The largest contribution of services activities to gross domestic product is in Bahrain (62.4 per cent) followed by Qatar (52.6 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (48.6 per cent). The percentage contribution of these sectors to GDP in the other Gulf states ranges between 41 per cent and 42 per cent.

Activities in these sectors have been financed mostly by government expenditures derived from oil revenues with a sizeable portion of the domestic requirements being provided for by imports.

However, the trend in the coming decade is to encourage greater private sector participation, diversify the kind of services activities generated domestically

and reduce the dependence on the outside world for the provision of these services.

Promoting the services sectors appears to offer a chance to diversify Gulf economic structure, given the difficulties encountered in establishing viable agricultural and industrial activities aside from those related to oil and petrochemicals.

Henry Azzam, the chief economist of GIB said the Gulf region is considered more important as a net importer of services than a net supplier. In 1989, a total deficit of \$15.8 billion is estimated to have been recorded in the balance of services and transfers for the six Gulf states.

This deficit has been on a declining trend after reaching a peak of \$44 billion in 1981.

Exports of services, which include earnings from shipping, aviation, insurance, banking,

tourism and other services recorded average rates of growth of 20 per cent per annum during the boom period of 1976-1981.

This gave way to annual rates of growth of 2 per cent during 1982-1985 period before declining in the subsequent three years.

Payments to acquire services from abroad which rose at an annual rate of 35 per cent between 1976 and 1981, increased by less than 1 per cent during the period of 1982-1986 before declining thereafter.

The 1990s appear to be quiet promising, with the beginning of an upturn in economic activities and a general anticipation of better times ahead for the major services sectors.

Because services activities are basically labour intensive, governments of the region are hoping that growth in these sectors will generate sizeable employment opportunities

for Gulf nationals in the years ahead.

The category of "other services" which includes banking, health, educational services, public administration, support services, consulting and engineering services, accounting and legal activities among others will not be discussed here. The presentation in this issue will be confined to a brief overview of insurance, aviation, shipping and tourism in the Gulf. Other services will be discussed in forthcoming issues.

The upturn in the region's trade activities is presenting shipping companies that serve the six Gulf states with fresh opportunities. Although hope of a quick boom period has been replaced by more realistic assessments, the shipping industry can look forward to a period of gradual but

(Continued on Page 14)

## Consumer spending dips

## Saudis boost investments

RIYADH, June 17. (Kuna) The year 1988 seemed to be a landmark that showed the end of the recession period and the start of growth in the regional and domestic economy, according to the annual report of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry published yesterday.

The report, which covers the period of 1988, underlined two major developments characterising the year under review: the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran came to an end, though a lasting peace is yet to materialise, and Opec countries reached an accord that included Iraq and adopted a new production ceiling.

Other positive characteristics included improvement in local demand, credit institutions activity, growth in the non-oil sector and meeting deficits in national budgets through new measures which avoided relying on withdrawing from national

reserves.

The report pointed out that the economy registered a net growth rate of 3.2 per cent despite a 1.1 per cent drop in oil revenues during the year. On the sectoral level, oil output grew from 1.9 per cent in 1987 to 4.7 per cent in 1988, while agriculture continued its growth at more than 10 per cent.

Moreover, net government expenditure grew by SR19.3 billion and domestic government investments increased by 8.7 per cent over 1987. At the same time consumer spending dropped from 91 per cent to 88.6 per cent leaving more for investment in production.

More importantly, the balance of trade showed an SR8 billion improvement, whereby exports exceeded imports in terms of value. This culminated in a trend in reducing the budget deficit gap from SR2.7 billion in 1987 to SR3.9 billion in 1988 and SR25 billion in 1989.

A qualitative indicator sum-

ming off these developments was the increase in the Saudi workforce by eight per cent and a reduction of foreign employment by seven per cent during the period.

The private sector performance also showed good progress, as it registered a 4.7 per cent growth rate in industry, 10.8 per cent in agriculture, five per cent in services and for the first time in several years, 6.4 per cent in construction, which had been badly hit by the recession period.

All this led to the private sector contributing 44 per cent to the GDP.

The private sector improved its financial potential by bringing back some SR16.7 billion from abroad in 1988 to meet its domestic commitments. Moreover, the number of registered companies increased by 336 with a combined capital of SR1,350 million, while public companies alone added eight new firms with a

combined capital of SR2,576 million. By the end of 1987, the number of new producing factories totalled 44 with a total finance of SR452 million.

Joint projects have also shown a similar improvement. In the industrial sector alone, producing plants totalled 429 with a combined capital of SR49.2 billion, while the total number of industrial and other joint projects amounted to 1,567 with a combined capital of SR59.8 billion with the Saudi share in it being 75.7 per cent. Public companies increased by 91 per cent in 1988 to total 63 with a combined capital of SR45.5 billion.

However, along these lines the council has continued its efforts to carry out its duties in two main areas, to take all opportunities to increase and improve private sector contribution in the development drive and pool all the resources of the chambers of commerce kingdom-wide to support the private sector.

## Stock market to get a boost

## Italy seeks to improve image

MILAN, June 17. (Reuters) Once considered a side show to mainstream European financial action, Italy's stock exchange has in recent months become the continent's hottest bourse.

A daily turnover of around 300 billion lire (\$250 million) on the Milan Bourse may still seem small change when compared with the huge business done in London, Frankfurt or even Paris, but stock prices have been rising strongly.

Encouraged by the continuing good performance of the economy and the strength of the lire, foreign investors have been rushing to buy shares.

This foreign interest has been crucial in helping drive up the local MIB stock market index by 10 per cent since the beginning of the year, local stockbrokers say.

"I had an order recently for 10 billion lire (around \$8 million) from a foreign institution which did not mind what I bought. Just today," said Sergio Rigoli of Milan stockbrokers studio Pastorini told Reuters.

Sam Alphonso to present paper

## Indian envoy to take part in NRI seminar

ARUN K. Budhiraja, Indian ambassador to Kuwait will participate as patron of the NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait along with the other NRI delegates in the 3rd NRI Seminar, which will be held on July 5 and 6, 1990 at Ta' Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

The delegation will include: R.P. Singh, first secretary, Indian embassy; M. Mathews, chairman, Indian Arts Circle; H.V. Rangaswamy, managing director, KIPEC; leading NRI businessmen, doctors and other professionals from Kuwait.

The seminar will devote a special session on India's foreign trade and tourism to focus on measures to promote NRI's contribution in these sectors.

In addition, this will also present a good opportunity to interact with Indian businessmen from other countries.

The seminar arrangements offer highly subsidized rates for registration as well as other hotel facilities. All NRIs are encouraged to avail of this special opportunity to participate in great numbers in this conference. For more details please contact Kuwait India International Exchange Co., Kuwait or Fahad.

ings in India, will have an excellent opportunity to communicate their suggestions as well as problem areas directly with the senior government officials.

In addition, the seminar will also include special presentations from the state industrial corporations to highlight the project investment opportunities and incentives made available to NRIs in various Indian states. A number of state corporation teams have confirmed their participation.

NRIs businessmen from the Arabian Gulf countries can hold direct discussions with the government officials from the commerce, finance and other ministries as well as the state officials during the three day seminar.

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Sam Alphonso, member, high level Export Consultative Committee and a leading NRI businessman, will present a detailed paper on the subject in this session. Efforts are being made to highlight Indian imports with constructive suggestions to alleviate these problems.

It is expected that minister of state for commerce and other senior government officials will attend this seminar. Therefore, NRIs having business deal-

ings until 1992. For the record 864 foreign firms taking part in the Algers International Fair under the slogan "partnerships," the results have struck a cautionary note.

"These elections will not necessarily influence Algerian economic life," said Francois Floutier, head of the giant French delegation of 328 firms. "But there is a situation of reserve and caution."

Algeria spends three-quarters of its annual hard currency revenue of around \$10 billion to service foreign debt of \$24 billion. There is little left over to import food, spare parts and material to keep factories running.

The March finance law gives foreign firms the right to form wholly-owned Algerian subsidiaries and majority-owned joint ventures with Algerian firms.

French bankers said joint ventures were being discussed between the Algerian state and corporate giants Michelin, Peugeot and Rhone Poulen. Middle-sized French firms were studying partnerships with the private sector.

Arab and Western finance institutions are

looking at joint investment companies that would take share in the capital of new Algerian commercial, industrial and real estate firms.

Only last week the Algerian government approved an agreement with the overseas private investment corporation, a US government agency that finances and insures private American investment in developing countries.

Even more serious is the potential impact on foreign borrowing. Algeria still has to secure financing for more than 80 per cent of its estimated current account deficit this year of around \$1 billion.

It has consistently rejected rescheduling and opted for the gradual replacement of short-term with medium-term debt — a strategy that can only work if banks co-operate.

But Western bankers, already at or near their lending limits for Algeria, have been bombarded with television and magazine images of triumphant Muslim fundamentalists who believe bank interest is sinful.



C.S.S. Khanpuri (left) chairman of the NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait pictured with other officials.



A view of the audience

## Investment fund launched

ANZ Grindlays Bank launched the Second India Investment Fund yesterday at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

ANZ Grindlays has already established a creditable track record in management of the first fund, which to the end of December 1989 had achieved pre-tax growth of 48 per cent. A unique feature of the second fund is the fact that it will have no capital gains tax liability in India.

This is possible due to a recent double tax treaty between India and Netherlands. Under this treaty, dividend income will suffer only 15 per cent tax instead of the usual 25 per cent. Although Dutch capital gains is normally levied at rates between 35

per cent and 40 per cent the managers have obtained a ruling from the authorities, the effect of which is that no tax at all will be payable on 80 per cent of revenue. As a result, the managers anticipate a tax rate on the second fund of approximately half the 20 per cent rate normally suffered by NRI's.

Explaining the fund's investment philosophy of targeting new issues and those of expanding companies, Roger Cottrell said, "We believe that this is the sector of the market offering exceptional investment returns providing investors can obtain professional, on the spot investigation of the opportunities. We aim to provide this in the management of the second fund." The fund is now open for subscription and the earliest closing date is July 10, 1990.

## Gulf Bank weekly market review

## KD mostly lower

### Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate eased against the dollar ending the week at 292.53 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.92 fils. The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 499.32 fils compared with its week before last closing of 492.82 fils.

The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 173.56 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.98 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 205.43 fils compared with its week before last closing of 203.00 fils. The KD was slightly lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 249.65 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.56 fils.

The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 226.54 fils compared with its week before last closing at 225.65 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 434.67 fils compared with its week before last closing of 433.76 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded at 8.68 per cent 8.81 per cent and 12-month rates traded at 8.81 per cent- 8.87 per cent same as the week before last.

## Ministers call for freer trade

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, June 17, (UPI): Central American economic and foreign ministers agreed yesterday that the answer to region's devastating economic crisis lies in implementing export-oriented and free-market economic policies.

In a first draft of a proposal presented to the presidents of Central America and Panama during the weekend's economic summit, the ministers called on the international community for fresh loans and grants, and a renegotiation of the region's staggering foreign debt that would allow for growth and development.

The document — compiled Friday by the ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — backed existing programmes in the region aimed at privatizing state-run industries.

It focused on finding ways to expand the market for Central American goods, mainly to the United States and Europe.

The ministers urged their presidents, who opened a two-day summit Saturday morning in Antigua about 30 miles (48 km) from Guatemala City, to continue expanding current import substitution programmes, while recommending gradual trade liberalization.

The document suggested creating a fund made up of money contributed by Central American countries, foreign governments and private donors that would "rescue the debt at market value."

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Iris said, "first we have to straighten out the Central American common market and then we have to go look for funds."

The ministers stressed the importance of adopting policies that would lead the region towards greater self-sufficiency.

They also called for concrete measures to stabilize farm product prices by co-ordinating policies that permit the effective incorporation of the agricultural sector into economic and social development, initiating programmes that guarantee a steady supply of basic products."

A specific measure regarding imports proposed establishing a common tariff system within the structure of the general agreement on tariffs and trade, or GATT.

The document also called on the presidents to find ways to dilute any immediate negative effect the proposed programme might have on the region's poor and urged more input from the private sector in co-ordinating the new plan and any future economic policies.

## Personal spending to remain steady: report

TOKYO, June 17, (UPI): Personal expenditures in Japan will remain robust in fiscal 1990 because of the changing style of spending, a bank report said today.

The Yokohama Bank said in its report on trends of personal consumption that the present consumption boom is characterized by a new type of spending.

"Purchases are made to improve the quality of life and this type of spending is spreading not only among families with assets but among consumers of all levels," the report said.

"This kind of consumption is from a deep-seated desire to improve living conditions and has become habitual, making it difficult for consumers to revise their spending downward."

The report said the recent slump in stock prices will inevitably cause negative impact on consumption but should not push down the growth of consumption as much as 0.8 percent.

Spending by salaried workers should remain firm mainly because the spring wage hike at almost 6.0 per cent exceeded the 5.2 per cent rise last year, the report said.

## Better times ahead for major services sectors

(Continued from Page 13)

steady growth.

The ongoing diversification of the Gulf economies, particularly the rising production of aluminum and petrochemicals will further give a boost to the region's shipping industry as non-oil exports pick up.

The demand for Gulf oil is projected to rise in the 1990s and the opening up of Eastern Europe has also created a new potential market. The stronger world oil demand will further push up freight rates encouraging the Gulf countries to embark on a tanker expansion programme. Ports and airports expansion and modernisation schemes for the GCC countries are also on the cards, though it remains to be seen whether passenger traffic and cargo level increases will justify the expansion.

The cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq and the projected upturn in economic activities in the 1990s has ushered in a new era for the airline industry. The prevailing optimism has generated a rush for new aircraft orders as the region's airlines gear up to take advantage of the new economic and political con-

ditions which are more conducive to airline growth. These emerging new trends are in sharp contrast to the recessionary conditions of the 1980s when the region's airlines saw a large fall off in traffic. Growth was stifled due to the downturn in business activity in the Gulf, while the war between Iran and Iraq closed air-space routes to civilian airlines and increased aviation hazards.

The drive to promote tourism in the Gulf will provide a further boost to the airline industry. Tourist traffic is a rapidly growing sector with most of the GCC countries actively involved in boosting their tourist potential and increasing the number of visitors they receive each year.

With the lay down of a sound infrastructure — hotels, roads, communications systems, and other facilities, the basic groundwork for the development of the tourist sector has already been completed. It now remains for the region to exploit the tourist potential and develop more facilities. Great strides are being taken in this direction particularly by Bahrain, Oman and the UAE. There is plenty of scope not just for foreign visitors, but for intra-Arab tourism as well.

The strengthening of tourism

potential lies in the fact that there is room to develop an identity without sacrificing national heritage, culture or traditions. Indeed, it is these that constitute the capital required to promote Gulf tourism. Though it is likely to be while before the tourist industry does fully take off, however, when it does it will be a boost to the region's economies.

Falling oil revenues and the consequent shrinkage of business in the Gulf have had their effects on the formerly thriving insurance and reinsurance markets in the region. However insurance companies are now more optimistic. Some even see the economic slowdown of the 1980s as a blessing in disguise because it has created an awareness among businessmen, importers, and even laymen about the advantages of having insurance coverage.

The basic structure of the Gulf insurance industry is now in place. It is expected that as economic activities in the Gulf continue to pick up momentum, the region's imports will rise generating an upturn in marine cargo premiums. New ventures in petrochemicals, gas liquefaction, chemical fertilizers and oil

refineries are expected to emerge alongside such infrastructure requirements as water desalination, electricity generation and other utilities and services. All of these developments will warrant insurance coverage in one form or another, and Gulf insurance and reinsurance companies are well positioned to exploit them.

Following the slump in the Gulf airline industry of the 1980s, growth prospects for the 1990s appear more encouraging. Passenger and freight traffic is forecast to grow and the region's airlines are poised to cash in on the new trend. Boeing Commercial Airplane Company forecasts traffic growth of 5.7 per cent a year over the coming ten years for all Middle East and North African airlines. For the same period, McDonnell Douglas projects annual average growth of 5.1 per cent in passenger traffic between Europe and the Middle East, and similar growth in cargo traffic.

The end of the Gulf war should lead to the opening up of air space allowing airlines to take more direct routes thus saving on fuel and flying time. There should be an increase in traffic to both Iran and Iraq particularly as recon-

struction activities in the two countries pick up.

The return to profitability has been accompanied by cost cutting measures designed to reduce overheads. Kuwait Airways in particular has been successful in its rationalisation drive. The airline has remained profitable for the sixth year in a row with the 1988 figures showing a record profit of \$11.3 million up from \$7.8 million the previous year.

Its commercial fleet comprises 19 aircraft with a passenger load factor of 63 per cent in 1988. The airline is looking at new destinations to raise market share and is making efforts to improve capacity utilisation on its existing routes which cover 42 international destinations.

Gulf Air which is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain registered a turnaround in 1988 with profits of \$6.8 million following a reported loss of \$17.7 million in 1987. In 1989, profits soared to \$73.4 million boosted by funds from the sale and leaseback of eight ageing Boeing 737s.

The airline is presently expanding its fleet as well as its route network. Gulf Air has 21 aircraft and a reported passenger load

factor in 1988 of 65 per cent. The rise in passenger traffic has contributed to the airline's profitability.

Previously a dramatic slump in revenues brought into effect cost cutting measures which involved staff reduction of about 8 per cent and the closing down of overseas divisions. The airline is hoping to have as much as 50 per cent of its business generated outside the Gulf in the next three to four years.

The region's largest airline, Saudi, has also been through some lean times. Its commercial fleet comprises 20 Boeing 747s, 17 Lockheed Tristar, 11 Airbus A300-600s and 19 Boeing 737s. It operates over 50 international destinations and 23 stations within the Kingdom and has an aircargo fleet of 43 carriers. The slow growth in airline traffic in previous years and national budgetary constraints have prevented replacement of the airline's fleet.

Though Saudia ranks as the eighteenth largest airline in the world in terms of passengers it has not been profitable due to the low fares charged on its domestic routes. These are close to \$0.08 a kilometre which is as little as a

half or a third of the fare in Europe or North America.

The Dubai-based Emirates Airlines is the region's newest airline and started operations in October 1985.

The airline has seen its passengers traffic surge from 20,000 in 1985 to about 800,000 in 1989. The airline currently runs more than 120 flights a week to destinations in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and is planning to further increase its market share. It carries half of the passengers travelling between Dubai and London and has a major share of traffic to the Indian sub-continent.

Though the region's airlines look set to take advantage of new opportunities and boost their overall revenues, they will be faced with increasingly tough competition on their international routes. The trend in world aviation these days is the emergence of mega carriers following new airline groupings. This along with an emerging barrier free Europe will mean that the airlines in the Gulf region will need to co-operate in order to compete successfully.

(To be continued)

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey hold ministerial meeting

## ECO seeks more economic links

ISLAMABAD, June 17, (Agencies): Iran, Pakistan and Turkey hold a ministerial meeting in Islamabad tomorrow to breathe life into their flagging Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO).

Joint venture plans have suffered bureaucratic delays since ECO was formed five years ago out of the defunct Regional Co-operation for Development that grouped the three countries before the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Tomorrow's meeting is aimed at upgrading the organisation to ministerial level to help speed up decisions, Pakistani officials said.

Recommendations to upgrade the body were made by top Foreign Ministry officials of the three countries at a meeting in Tehran in May.

Their proposals will be put for

approval to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan and the Turkish Minister of State in charge of Economic Affairs, Isin Celebi.

Important decisions to strengthen ECO and give it a "new thrust and direction" are likely to be taken, one official said.

Proposed projects include an investment bank and a trade preferential system, and Pakistani officials said significant progress had already been made on both.

A preferential tariff protocol has been drafted and progress has been made on the list of items to be traded among the three countries under this arrangement, the officials said.

An Istanbul-based ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry was set up in April this year to help promote trade and

economic co-operation.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left today for Pakistan to attend the first foreign ministerial session, the news agency Ira reported.

Aqazadeh reported Iran's output capacity in March at 3.3 million barrels a day. He said then that Iran would be able to pump 3.7 million barrels a day by the end of July, and up to 4 million barrels a day next year.

Iran's oil industry, which produces 90 percent of its foreign currency revenues, was severely hit during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Industry analysts say that much of its infrastructure is aging and estimate that modernization to sustain increased output could cost as much as \$8 billion.

Aqazadeh said Iran has opened representative offices in Rotterdam, Singapore and the Caribbean "in a bid to maintain active presence in the consumer market and deliver oil directly to the consumer."

Speaking at a news conference, Aqazadeh stressed that Iran would adhere to the production quota of 3.14 million barrels a day set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

even though its capacity was larger than that, Ira reported.

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### Sharp service training

An intensive service training programme was conducted by Maseelah Trading Co. on a wide range of Sharp electronic products backed by the technical expertise of Sharp Corporation. Uematsu of Sharp instructed the team of latest products from Sharp's leading world-wide system. The programme covered a range of products including VCRs, fax machines, and telephone systems. This service training programme is part of Maseelah Trading Co.'s commitment to quality after sales support on all Sharp products sold in Kuwait. Picture shows Uematsu of Sharp instructing MTC service technicians on latest Sharp products.

### Vintage Swatch prices rising fast

AT a sale of modern art organised by Mangisch auction house in Zurich on Saturday, 19 May 1990, a number of Swatch specials stole the show by going for sums that were astronomical in relation to their original retail prices. A feat made all the more remarkable by the fact that the watches in question were ordinary manufactured items (albeit limited editions), none of which was more than seven years old.

The undisputed star of Saturday's auction was an Original Jelly Fish, produced as a limited edition of 200 in 1983 and distributed to selected journalists to mark Swatch's international launch. The watch went under the hammer for a sensation of Sfr. 5,750. (including commission).

Only slightly less impressive was the sale of a complete set of four Keith Haring Specials to an unknown collector for Sfr. 10,350. (likewise including commission).

But there were the outstanding sales of the day. Collectors Club, due to be launched this summer and initially restricted to Switzerland and Germany, if current trends are anything to go by, the Club seems destined to be an immediate and resounding success.

And with the body of avid Swatch collectors growing all the time, the trend seems likely to continue. It is fascinating to see the lengths to which Swatch lovers will go to get their hands on a rarity, or simply a Swatch that has taken their fancy. A thriving unofficial network of collectors already exists in Europe, through which enthusiasts are able to contact collectors, locate the watches they are looking for and organise sales and exchanges.

All of which bodes well for the official Swatch

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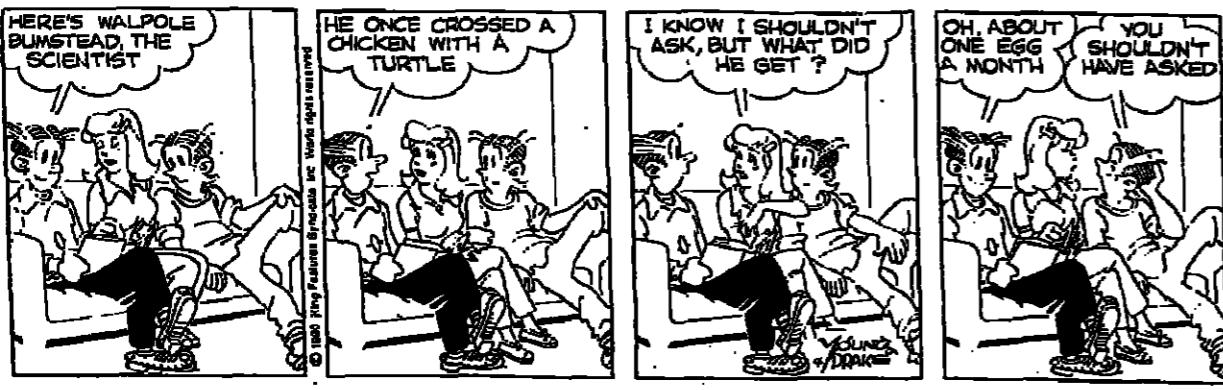
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But there were the outstanding sales of the day. Collect



## BLONDIE — By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



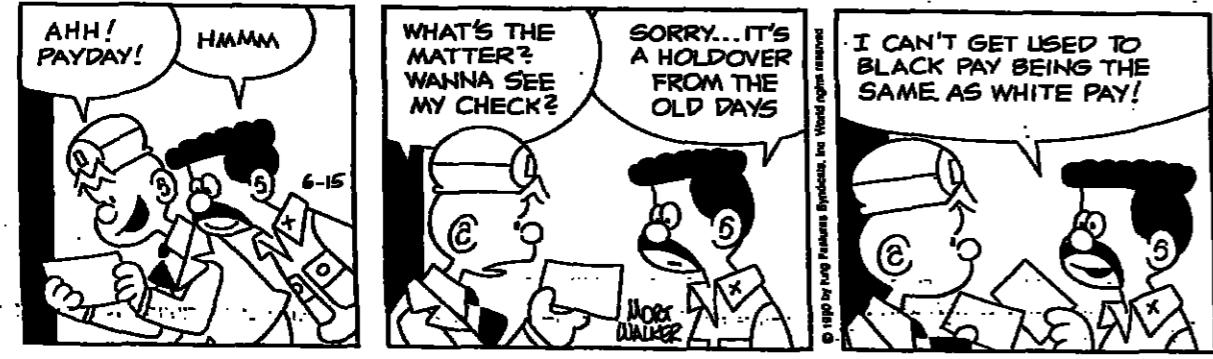
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Gary Larson



## AGATHA CRUMPTIE — By Doreen Lioy



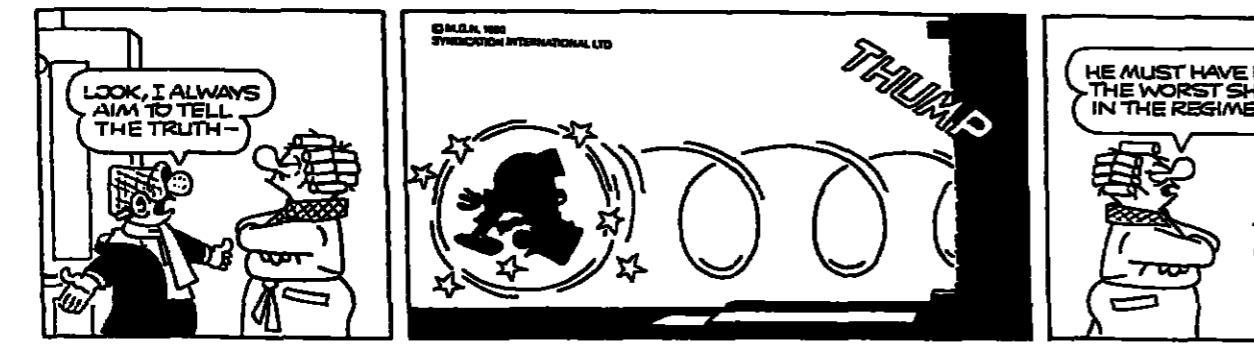
## BEETLE BANZAI



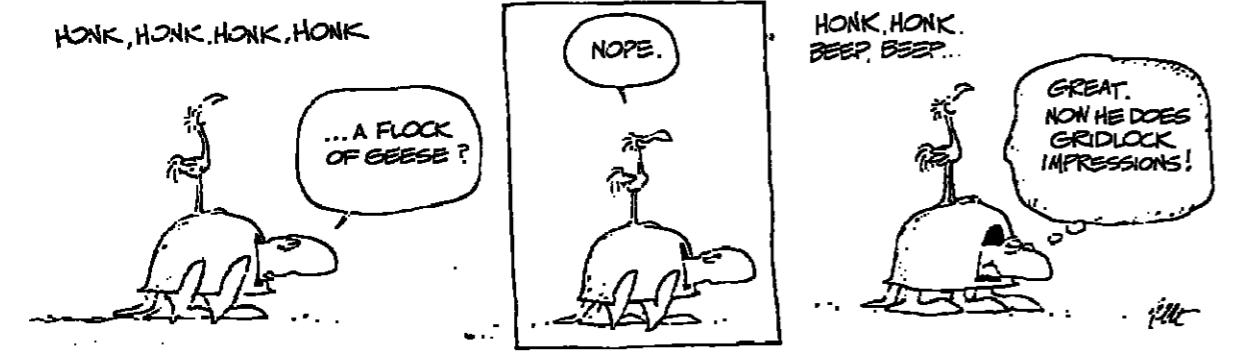
## THE WIZARD OF OZ — By Roger S. &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP



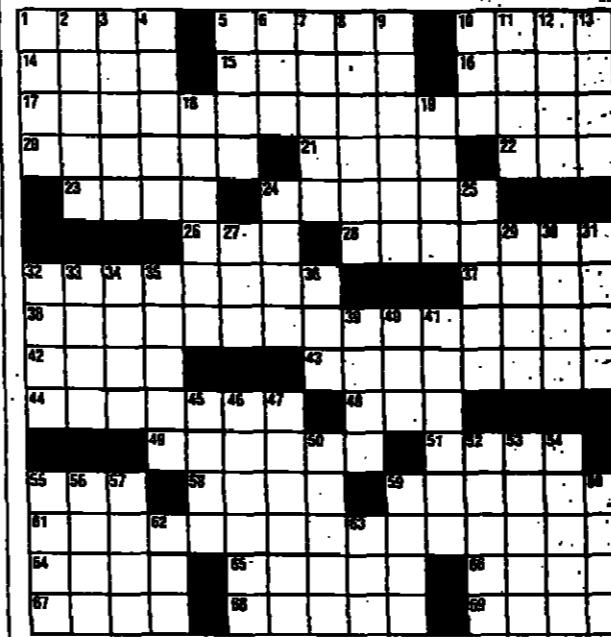
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Forton &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH ♠ 0 7 5

♦ 8

♥ A Q 10 9 7

♦ A K 10 6

WEST ♠ J. ♠ 10 6

♦ A J 10 9 7 6 4 ♠ K 5 2

♦ 6 ♠ 8 4 3 2

♦ Q 3 9 4. ♠ 8 7 5 2

SOUTH ♠ A K 9 8 4 3 2

♦ Q 3

♦ K J 5

♦ 3

The bidding:

West North East South

♦ ♠ Pass Pass 4 ♠

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

There are some hands where only an expert can go down! If you don't believe us, study this deal from the Masters' Pairs Championship more than a quarter of a century ago and see if you can work out how declarer, a nationally-ranked player, was defeated in his spade slam after the lead of the ace of hearts.

Certainly, you can't quibble with

the auction, unless you feel that North might have checked for aces in case his side could make a grand slam. When it comes to the play, however, you will have to make up your own mind.

West led the ace of hearts and East dropped the king! On the heart continuation, declarer took the precaution to ruff with dummy's queen and was taken aback when East produced a second heart. Had declarer now claimed his contract, it is just possible the opponents would have conceded, but declarer's mind was working overtime.

Why had East falsecarded with the king of hearts? South concluded there could be only one explanation: East held all three missing trumps and was hoping to set up a trump trick for himself by inquiring declarer to ruff high.

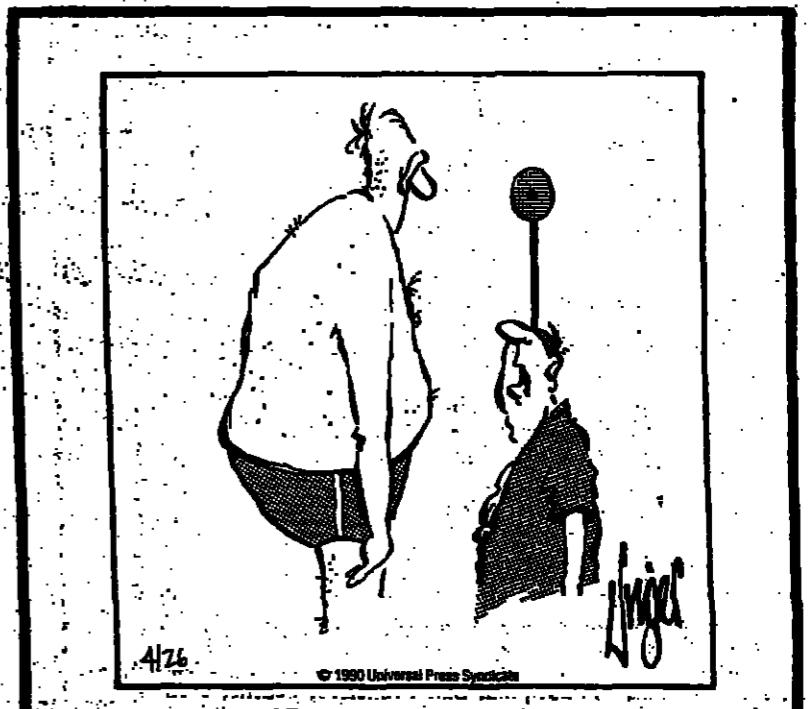
Having worked that out, declarer was ready to produce his own brilliancy. He led a trump from the table and, when East produced the six, declarer confidently finessed the eight! The logic was almost irrefutable. Unfortunately, West won the trick with the jack-down one!

ACROSS  
 1 Dingle  
 5 Manila hemp  
 10 Gibson and Allen  
 14 Jai —  
 15 Berlin's "Call Me" —  
 16 "Thanks" —  
 17 CHERRY  
 20 Extra tires  
 21 Detective Wolfe  
 22 Unused part of QED  
 24 Reef builders  
 26 Family man  
 28 Unexpected hit  
 32 Pacifics  
 37 Leaping —  
 38 STRAWBERRY  
 42 Boxing match  
 43 Keyboard instruments  
 44 Certifies  
 48 Double curve  
 49 Enjoy a book again  
 51 Fissionable unit  
 55 Physicians' org.  
 58 Paper measure  
 59 Wiped out  
 61 ORANGE  
 64 — go bragh  
 65 Dormouse  
 66 Psyches  
 67 Actor  
 68 "Sesame Street" character  
 69 Playing cards

6 Resounding sound  
 7 Hersey's "A Bell for —"  
 8 Provides food for a party  
 9 Ethically neutral  
 10 Wrestling area  
 11 North Carolina college  
 12 Word with Ranger or Eagle  
 13 Hodgepodge  
 14 Group of four  
 19 Platform for a pump?  
 24 Skelton's Kadidlehopper  
 25 Markets  
 27 Siam or Japan ending  
 29 Kind of moss  
 30 Resort town in Sicily  
 31 The Pied Piper's followers  
 32 Eastern bishop's title

33 Scheme  
 34 Show signs of petulance  
 35 Computer key  
 36 Relative of the Fox  
 39 Wind instrument part  
 40 Metric units: Abb.  
 41 Port on the Adriatic  
 45 Dried  
 46 Soprano  
 47 Pinniped hunter  
 50 "...it's like in May"  
 52 Soothed  
 53 Native American  
 54 Bordeaux wine  
 55 Copicat  
 56 Simple  
 57 Related  
 59 Italian noble family  
 60 Secretary  
 62 Single  
 63 —distant self-styled

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:  
 MALE TAILS LIVES  
 AGAR ARRAN NEAP  
 JOHN DICKSON CARR  
 AGREE SERIALLY  
 SLUB REP  
 COP APIE SALTED  
 AHA NORMS LAVA  
 RAYMOND CHANDLER  
 OREO SEATO ERI  
 LARIAT ELAN SYN  
 LODO ENCE  
 ADDRAIBLE OMBRE  
 DASHIELL HAMMETT  
 ALSO OILED ATREE  
 MIAS REAMS SASS



Open your mouth.

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## Aries

March 21 - April 19

You will tend to be rather discontented and should try to look on the bright side. You will not have time to do all you would like to do, but you should not miss out what you have to do. Avoid eating more than you know is good for you. Be fair.

## Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Do not allow your emotions to spill over but do not suppress them either. Make sure you are sitting comfortably and that you get enough rest. Think of others as well as of yourself. Be resolute.

## Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

There will be some ups and downs but on you will also have good cause for satisfaction. There is nothing to be gained by waiting and seeing. You will be able to make some changes but do ensure that they are for the better. Be tactful.

## Capricorn

Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Your enthusiasm is tending to flag and you should use every opportunity to rekindle it. What you had high hopes of will prove to be disappointing. Beware of acting on false assumptions and do check your facts. Be prompt.

## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

You are liable to leave a key behind, perhaps locking yourself out, so take special care. And ensure you do not mislay any personal belongings. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. Do not try to be too clever. Be magnanimous.

## Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Do what you think is right not what you think is likely to carry favour. You will tend to tire more easily so do what is important first of all. Think a little longer and harder before you act. Be determined.

## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You are more likely to get into a muddle so take some time to tidy up. Keep your eyes and ears wide open you are liable to be fooled. Have a little more faith and confidence in yourself. Be sincere.

## Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You should not be so ready to criticise others and do not be too haughty to accept criticism. Nor should you be too rigid to act upon good advice. If you insist on getting your own way you will be disappointed. Be glad.

## Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

You are more prone to mistakes and should be on the lookout for them. Avoid taking things for granted and do not expect too much from others. Nor should you rely on good luck to solve a problem for you. Be less negligent.

## Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 19

You will be able to do something much better off you could be, think of how much worse things might have been. Do not act on the spur of the moment, but on the other hand do not hesitate—if you do it could be too late. Avoid being a nuisance. Be reliable.



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"Can I kiss one of the bridesmaids instead?"



Ryan White (right), an 18-year-old Aids victim whose fight to attend school won him international publicity. (file photo)

## Epidemic strains

By Peg Byron

NEW YORK, (UPI): The lifeblood of many Aids programmes is thousands of volunteers who continue to labour, sometimes until their own deaths, in a tragic world seemingly invisible to many US citizens.

But now, nearly a decade after the first case of Aids came to light, many dedicated activists are concerned about who will help meet the growing needs of the relentless epidemic.

Death continues to claim leaders and experienced activists from the ranks. For example, at the People With Aids Coalition, all but two of the nine founding members have died over the past five years.

"Aids is part of everything I do. It feels overwhelming," said Heidi Dorow, 25, who devotes about 20 hours a week to New York's Aids coalition to unleash power, known as "Act Up."

"It's like, my life. It takes up most of my free time," said Dorow. "It's so funny to call it volunteer work. It's activism, gay and lesbian visibility activism."

A seven-year volunteer with the nation's largest Aids service group, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Jon Knowles says his involvement was triggered by tragedy in his personal life but unexpectedly made him happier as a gay man.

Knowles, 46, explained: "It just renewed my faith in human beings and made me more accepting of myself. I was taught that gay men are sissies, selfish, arrogant, miserable people. That has not been my experience."

Joseph Ripple, co-ordinator for GMHC's 1,700 volunteers, said New York's volunteer effort appears to be thriving despite the adversity.

"It's true it's falling down in San Francisco, but it's not falling down in New York," he said.

About 500 people regularly attend the boisterous Monday meetings held by New York's Act Up, which has spawned chapters in two dozen cities, including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, even London, Paris and Sydney.

But battle fatigue still is taking its toll. Many activists became involved after such drugs as Azt were found to extend the lives of Aids patients, raising optimism. Now they are watching people die despite the drugs.

"I think Keith Haring's death made it real for a lot of people who wanted to believe they wouldn't die of Aids," said one activist, referring to a well-known New York artist who died earlier this year despite such treatments.

Act Up member Mark Harrington wryly observed "Maybe what we need to do is buy a little island in the Caribbean for tired activists to go and recuperate."

New York's pool of active volunteers is reportedly holding steady at about 3,000 to 5,000 for everything from GMHC's comprehensive effort to smaller support groups and unusual patient services such as gourmet food delivery and pet care.

But already, GMHC, has waiting lists of up to six weeks for people with Aids needing help, and the agency is uncertain if it can continue growing with the epidemic.

By last month, there were 26,606 people reported with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in New York, the largest concentration among more than 130,000 people with Aids nationally.

"I think one of the differences between New York and San Francisco is New York has a higher absolute number of cases, but San Francisco has a higher number per capita," said GMHC spokeswoman Carissa Cunningham.

"The ongoing shock and trauma there is even more intense than here. They have entire neighbourhoods and communities being wiped away," she said.

A looming dilemma is whether dedication born largely from the Gay Civil Rights Movement will survive the second wave of Aids, made up of intravenous drug users, with the most blacks, hispanics and women who catch the deadly illness.

By Rebecca Kolberg

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Just a few years ago, the big question surrounding development of a cure or a vaccine for Aids was, "caut before you leap." Now, leading Aids researchers say the question has shifted to "When will it be done?"

But barring a scientific miracle or a major trick up the sleeve of polio vaccine pioneer Dr Jonas Salk, the "when" apparently will not be in time for the Sixth International Aids Conference in San Francisco, and may also come far too late to help hundreds of thousands of people already infected.

"I am not anticipating any major breakthroughs. ... If anyone is looking at the conference with the idea that a cure is going to be released at that time, that won't happen," said Dr Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for Aids Research, a co-sponsor of the meeting.

About 12,000 scientists, health care workers and Aids activists from around the world are expected to attend the June 20-24 conference, considered the premier research meeting on Aids. Another co-sponsor, the University of California-San Francisco, a major research centre in the battle against Aids, accepted about half of some 4,900 scientific papers submitted world-wide to the conference.

The early years of the Aids epidemic, which first emerged in 1981, were marked by major scientific strides — the discovery of the Aids-causing human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, creation of a blood test to detect HIV and development of Azt, the first drug to slow the disease, which destroys the body's ability to fight infection.

But since Azt's approval in 1987, Aids research has grabbed fewer headlines and the advances have been less dramatic, slowly building upon each other step by step.

Dr Robert Gallo, who co-discovered the Aids virus with Luc Montagnier in 1983, told the recent Act Against Aids Benefit that the scientific struggle to beat the disease has "somewhat plateaued, research is getting increasingly difficult."

"Drugs are slow, slower than anticipated. We have to do a lot more," Gallo said.

To date, Azt or Zidovudine remains the only government-approved drug to directly attack the Aids virus, which the World Health Organisation estimates has infected at least six million people world-wide.

But US Food and Drug Administration spokesman Brad Stone said he has seen no plateau in the pace at which companies are submitting potential treatments for Aids to the agency's panels for approval.

About 100 drugs to treat Aids and the ailments that kill many of those infected, such as pneumonia and care cancers, are being tested in humans, and about 30 of those drugs have already cleared early safety tests, Stone said.

Although Aids activists have accused scientists of taking a "cold and calculated approach" that moves too slowly to help people infected with the deadly virus, Dr Anthony Fauci, head of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said: "The pain and suffering touches us all. ... We will not rest until this terrible epidemic is under control."

In the United States, Europe and Asia, the Aids virus, which is spread by sexual or blood-to-blood contact, has primarily affected homosexual men and intravenous drug users. But in parts of Africa, the deadly illness strikes men and women about equally and is widespread throughout urban society.

During the 1990s, Fauci said biomedical science probably will be able to render Aids a "controllable, chronic disease," much like diabetes of haemophilia.

"I think the next year or two are going to be quite exciting in terms of things (Aids drugs) brought into the clinic," Rigby said.

Rigby, who began her acting career soon after leaving gymnastics, has played the role in eight previous productions.

"The reviews were good, so we said, why not a national tour," she said.

Co-produced by her husband, Tom McCoy, the show opened last December in Boston.

While the storyline remains intact, there are some elements of this show that are different.

"What we're trying to do in this show is to give the audience a darker, more dramatic side of Peter Pan," Rigby said.

Peter's unwillingness to grow up is something to which Rigby can relate.

*LAUGH IT*

## Special Report on Aids

# No cure, vaccine around the corner



A Romanian baby soon to die from Aids. Some 60 per cent of babies tested for Aids were found to be seropositive, showing symptoms in Romania. Doctors blame the alarmingly high figures on low hygiene in hospitals, re-used hypodermic needles and Aids transmission during transfusions. (file photo)

## More volunteers needed

By John M. Leighty

SAN FRANCISCO, (UPI): Hit hardest by the Aids epidemic in the United States, San Francisco has been thrust into the forefront in the battle against the deadly disease since the epidemic began.

More than 5,700 of the 740,000 residents of this picturesque city have died from Aids since the first cases began appearing a decade ago, and another 8,700 have been diagnosed with the illness and as many as 35,000 residents may be infected with the virus that destroys the body's immune system, leaving victims defenseless against devastating infections.

"I think there's a real tiredness that exists," said Holly Smith, who works at the Shanti Project, one of the many agencies that have sprung up to help care for Aids patients.

"I think now in San Francisco we are dealing with a certain amount of Aids overwhem and grief and loss that is real. It seems like it's been a long haul," said Smith.

Dr Robert Yarchoan, an Aids drug expert at the Cancer Institute. "A large number of things should start to bear fruit over the next couple years."

Long-awaited preliminary reports of human tests of the experimental anti-Aids drugs Azidothymidine or Adu and Dideohydroxythymidine or D4T will be presented at the San Francisco meeting, Yarchoan said.

In the past year, several large pharmaceutical firms have designed a new breed of drugs that appear to have the power to attack the Aids virus on a different front. The designer compounds block protease, an enzyme the Aids virus needs to reproduce.

Another drug class to watch is the so-called tido derivatives, compounds that closely resemble tranquilizing drugs that a Belgian team recently found to be extremely potent blockers of Aids virus reproduction in the test-tube.

As of February, neither protease blockers nor tido compounds had been tried in humans.

At the Aids conference, many people will be watching for results of early human tests of a genetically engineered therapy called CD4-IGG, which combines antibodies with a synthetic version of the chemical door that the Aids virus uses to invade cells.

It is hoped the hybrid will spur an immune reaction and last longer than plain soluble CD4, which, although able to sop up the Aids virus in the test tube, has shown a disappointingly short lifespan in the human bloodstream, limiting its practical use.

The upcoming year should also mark the start of human tests of another important twist on CD4 therapy — CD4-PE, which combines the CD4 molecular

ing pressure to change US policy, is to make the statement that the entry restrictions are unacceptable, and here it has succeeded."

The day after the conference begins, an annual Gay Freedom Day parade is expected to draw 100,000 participants — from the bizarre to the patriotic.

One of the parade's themes will be the need for more money to fight Aids in its early stages and to provide help to those disabled by the disease, which has killed 80,500 people nationwide.

"There is a certain level of frustration and disappointment that funding cycles have not been appropriately addressed. There's not enough money yet for education and support services," Smith said.

Despite the community response, she said, at Shanti there are now some 100 Aids sufferers on a waiting list for volunteers to give them practical and emotional support as they fight for their lives.

despite a bacterial toxin called pseudomonas exotoxin. In the test-tube, the hybrid delivers a mighty one-two punch, mopping up infected cells and killing them with the toxin.

"In theory, this could clear the body of any HIV-infected cell if it could reach it," Dr Margaret Johnston, head of Aids Drug Development at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. However, she notes it is unlikely CD4-PE would be able to cross from the bloodstream into the brain.

Both Johnston and Yarchoan said they know of no drug, even among compounds in the earliest stages of development, that appears to have the power to completely cure an Aids infected person, if a cure is defined as eliminating every last trace of HIV from the body.

But Yarchoan noted it may not be

necessary to wipe out all signs of HIV to prevent infected people from developing life-threatening diseases. "There are many viruses we can live with without problems," he said.

If such a "cure" is achieved by giving a patient a variety of drugs over a long period of time, Yarchoan said researchers must be alert to drug resistance and toxic reactions, a problem also faced by many cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Further studies of patients who show signs of developing Azt resistance are likely to draw much attention at the Aids conference, he said.

The man who has shared the interest, if not exactly the admiration, of Aids vaccine researchers is Salk, who is using much the same approach he used to develop his landmark polio vaccine in the 1950s in an attempt to vanquish the Aids virus.

Salk stole the show at last year's Aids conference in Montreal by announcing that his vaccine, which employs Aids virus that has been killed, had prevented Aids infection in chimpanzees, and showed hints of slowing disease progression in humans already infected with the Aids virus.

Since then, the flamboyant researcher

has not presented further results of the human tests, although he recently received government permission for nation-wide testing of the post-exposure vaccine in HIV-infected people. His research also stirred up controversy when Los Angeles Archbishop Roger Mahony sent a letter to 2,900 healthy priests and nuns asking them to consider volunteering for the Salk Aids vaccine because they were extremely unlikely to be infected with the Aids virus prior to vaccination.

However, the vaccine could potentially backfire and actually cause the deadly illness if all the virus used is not completely killed, a danger that most researchers think would make it too dangerous for widespread use in healthy people.

Theoretically, one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of Aids would be through vaccination. But because the Aids virus is so complex and mutates rapidly, experts at last year's meeting predicted any vaccine is at least five years away.

Attracting less publicity than Salk's work, but probably of greater value in developing a way of protection the average person from Aids, is a growing body of evidence that shows healthy monkeys and chimpanzees can be immunized against Aids-like infections, even when only a small, non-infective piece or "subunit" of the virus is used.

Also encouraging is a recent human study at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine that showed a subunit vaccine can kill Aids-infected cells like a vaccine made from whole live virus. In the past, researchers thought only vaccines made of whole, live virus, which are risky because they may cause the disease they are intended to prevent, could trigger such killing.

In addition to killing HIV-infected cells, the ideal Aids vaccine should trigger the immune system to produce antibodies that can kill free-floating virus in the blood stream. Preliminary results show some subunit vaccines spur such a response.

Dr Dani Bolognesi, an Aids vaccine expert at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina, said the recent animal findings, coupled with the early results in humans, indicate an effective Aids vaccine will likely consist of a "cocktail" of various HIV subunits.

"There is much more enthusiasm for this (Aids vaccine research) than there has been, more interest and more investment. With a little luck, maybe we will be able to shorten the time it takes to develop a good Aids vaccine. Money is never enough by itself, we always need luck too," Bolognesi said.

## Sounds great

### Folk, African

Various Artists, *Urban Africa, Jive Hits Of The Township* (Polygram, 841 470-41).

*Miriam Makeba, Weela*, (Mercury, 838 208-4).

From the indignation aroused by the apartheid policies of the South African government comes a call for unity among that country's black majority. And the rallying cry to abolish the racist policies mandated by the white government is not only shouted by black leaders like Nelson Mandela. It's a cause that has made its way for decades into the ethnic music of the black Southern African people.

*Urban Africa — Jive Hits Of The Township* and *Miriam Makeba's Weela* paint a picture of the ethnic and tribal diversity of Southern Africa. Sing in English, various Africa dialects and Mozambique-Portuguese, the assortment on these two related works (two cuts from *Weela* appear on *Jive Hits*) are not anti-white. They are pro-human rights.

These African rhythms — heavy on the percussive strings — include a big of the blues, dance beats, and a very strong reminder that American jazz, R-and-B, rock and pop forms are directly descended from Southern African ethnic music.

Apartheid has given the world music with meaning. Makeba and the other artists in these two collections offer a boppin' beat to keep the revolution moving.

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Jazz

George Adams, *America (Blue Note, 93896)*

Whether he is playing on the fringe, straight ahead or steeped in the blues, George Adams' beefy tenor sax gets right into the heart of the music. His latest recording, a musical salute to America's fundamental values, is both surprising and superb.

Adams' pianist, Hugh Lawson, bassist Cecil McBee and drummer Mark Johnson turn themselves into the American spirit going back to colonial days as they explore the music of Stephen Foster (*Old Folks At Home*), Francis Scott Key (*The Star-Spangled Banner*) and other American classics.

*America The Beautiful, Take Me Out To The Ball Game, You Are My Sunshine, Tennessee Waltz, Georgia On My Mind, and two originals, Motivation and Have You Thanked America.*

There is a fine duet between Adams and Lawson on *Georgia*, while Adams makes *The Star Spangled Banner* an R-and-B tinged solo vehicle. On several tracks, including his two heart-felt originals, Adams also doubles on vocals.

This is a bluesy celebration of the timeless tunes many generations of Americans have grown up with. Don't miss it.

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Classical

Michel Beroff, piano, with Kurt Masur, Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, "The Five Piano Concertos" (EMI, 62342).

We have a winner in the competition to put out the best collection of the great Prokofiev piano concertos.

## Kerala girls to tour US



Bobby Krishnan.



The ten dancers who will tour the US later this month



Kanaka Devi.



Sudha Pillai.

Vineeta Vasudevan.

### Sudarshan Kala Mandir invited

A GROUP of Indian classical dancers from Kuwait are to go on a tour of the United States later this month. The 10 girls, all students of the Sudarshan Kala Mandir, have been invited to take part in the annual National Convention of Keralites (NCK) in North America.

All Kerala groups in North America come under NCK, which represents the Malayalee community living in Canada and US. Sudarshan Kala Mandir, one of the first classical dance schools to be set up by Kanaka Devi, was invited by the American association.

Several Indian girls have studied dance from Kanaka Devi, who is a trained under gurus in Mysore, Madras and Kerala. She also represented her native Kerala in several youth festivals in India. In Kuwait, she has taken an active part in teaching dance and frequently puts on dance shows at the IAC.

Kanaka Devi has selected 10 best students from over 100 children training under her. The girls participated in a recently held dance contest and won in all the seven categories of the competition. They are: Bobby Krishnan, Sudha Pillai, Vineeta Vasudevan, Reshma Ramankutty, Sunila Philipose, Sugra Rajgopal, Bindu Thomas, Bindu Rajappan, Reena Michael and Archana Nair.

They will be performing in four US cities — Orlando, Miami, Houston and Dallas — before an estimated 5,000 people.

Their programme comprises both Bharata Natyam and Mohiniyattam dance numbers.

More than 5,000 Keralites are expected to attend, including Indian Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan, former minister M.M. Jacob, and a host of other eminent personalities from Kerala.

The annual convention, which this year will be held in Orlando from June 29 to July 2, also marks the bi-centennial of the arrival of the first Indian to the US.

This is the first time that Keralites from Kuwait are participating in the event.

## Graduation ceremony

THE English School, Fahheel, recently held its annual graduation ceremony for Junior 4 students. A variety show was held by the students. School director Ibrahim Shuhaiher welcomed Education Ministry officials, including Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, assistant under-secretary for private education. British Ambassador Michael Weston and a large number of dignitaries were also present. It was announced that from the next academic year 1990/91, the school will be introducing Senior One classes.



British Ambassador Michael Weston, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah and Ibrahim Shuhaiher and other guests pictured during the rendition of the national anthem.



Some of the students.



Dr Al Sharrah shakes hands with a student before giving her the certificate.



Japanese travel agents pictured during their recent Gulf visit organised by Cathay Pacific.

## Travel brief

A GROUP of leading Japanese travel agents, who specialise in business to the Middle East, spent several days recently in Bahrain, Dubai and Sharjah on a study tour sponsored by Cathay Pacific in Japan. The group visited a number of scenic and historic places in the three destinations to learn about travel potential first hand. The group also attended a seminar in Bahrain organised by Cathay's regional office at which prominent Japanese expatriates living on the island briefed them on social and economic aspects of the region. The group inspected hotels and shopping centres and were given information on the extensive facilities available to travellers visiting Bahrain and the UAE. Accompanying the group throughout their stay was Masahiko Inoue, Cathay's Bahrain-based Japanese sales representative for the Middle East and India.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES



Afaf Shuaib stars in Nukhta Al Al, KTV 1

### KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran  
9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial  
9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim  
10.10 Good Morning  
10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 9, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiba Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami  
11.15 News Summary  
12.00 Al Rasheed Al Barad: Arabic serial; part 9; featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili.

1.20 Songs  
1.30 Sanavar: cartoon serial  
2.00 News in Arabic  
2.15 Aliah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep. 9; featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazin

3.35 Shiqawat Fi Sabean: Arabic feature film, starring Kamal Shammawi, Hala Fuad, Hussein Sharbini.

5.30 Sally: cartoon serial  
6.00 Mama Anisa Wa Sighar

7.30 Songs  
8.15 Quran and Science: presented by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim

9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial; last episode; starring Farouk Fisbawi, Hala Sudqi

11.15 Nukhta Al Al Harf: variety show, prepared and presented by Marwan Sawwaf.

12.15 News Summary  
12.20 World News Via Satellite

12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

### KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Hair Bear Bunch: cartoons

6.30 Animals of Africa: "The Impalas"

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and world news.

7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles wins the "student of the year" award and moves to the college dormitory; Comedy

8.00 News in English

8.40 Around the World: takes you on a whirlwind global tour.

9.00 The Equalizer: "The Mystery of Manon" Part 2. While Robert McCall looks for his missing son, a Russian agent comes on the scene. Starring: Ed Woodward.

10.00 You Can't Take It With You... "Alice

Loves Tony". Alice falls in love and it seems she is serious about Tony until they fall out over a trivial matter. Comedy.

10.30 Classic Colour Movies: "The Hook". Starring Kirk Douglas, Robert Walker.

12.10 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

### Sports Channel

Channel 6/45

9.00 pm Sports Review  
10.00 World Cup: Romania vs Argentina (Live).

12.10 World Cup: Cameroon vs Soviet Union (recording)

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Pakistan Arts Circle membership campaign

June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive committee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

**Pakistanis Welfare Society**  
June 19: 5.30 pm. The monthly meeting of Pakistanis Welfare Society will be held at the residence of Liaquat Ali. Members are requested to come on time.

**Festival on Ice**  
June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show.

Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2530000/2533000.

**Overseas students party**  
June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the

British Council.

**Thai Corner**: Saturday night. **Cowboy Night**: Every Sunday, live country music.

**Chinese Corner**: Monday night feature.

**Greek Taverna**: Mediterranean magic with bouzouki music.

**Indonesian corner**: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of

Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St, Mansoura.

**Jazz Night**: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

**Friday**: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

**Versailles**: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

**At the Holiday Inn**

**Al Ahmad Coffee Shop**: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

**Al Andalus Supper Club**: Arabic Nite, every Thursday, Arabic band entertains guests.

**Friday Family Lunch**: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

**At the SAS**

**Bistro**: Sunday/Wednesday pasta night; Italian music.

**Peacock Room**: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

**Al Boom**: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezze buffet.

**Clock**: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

**At the Plaza**:

**Al Daliah Coffee Shop**: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

**Lolowood Corner**: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

**Marco Polo**: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

**Chinese**

**British Council**

June 16/17: 6.30 pm. "84 Charing Cross Road", a universally acclaimed film based on the true story of Helene Hanff (Anne Bancroft) will be shown.

It tells the story of a 20-year love affair with the staff of a second-hand bookshop. For reservations call 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

### PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13 am
Zahr	11.49
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.50
Isha	8.22

**All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.**

## CINEMA TODAY

**Starring**: Waheeda Rehman, Sanjeev Kumar, Fahadheen Open-Air, Rasyid Pyar Ke (Hindi), Al Fahheel Dream team, Al Jaha, Panic in the Casino, Gramada, The Untouchables, Sulafikhat, Calibre 357, Al Jeeb, Nair Sahib (Malayalam), Starring: Mammootty, Alhami Drive-In, Seven Red Berets



Shilton marks record appearance with faultless display

# England hold Dutch to draw



Mark Wright (left) hangs on to Gullit's shirt. (Reuter wirephoto)

CAGLIARI, June 17. (Reuter): England and European champions the Netherlands produced a match of high quality but no goals yesterday and so left World Cup Group F wide open and without any clear favourite for the second round.

Both teams, meeting in the finals for the first time, played with greater style and imagination than they showed in their previous outings against Ireland and Egypt respectively, but the outcome was a tactical stalemate.

England unexpectedly introduced a five-man defensive system for the first time and used the quick Des Walker to mark Marco van Basten, a move which negated the Dutch striker's usual threat.

For England's supporters,

As a result, the Netherlands were rarely able to penetrate the England defence in which goalkeeper Peter Shilton marked his world record 120th international appearance with a faultless display and several excellent saves.

The Dutch defence was only rarely troubled after the first stages, but England could at least claim to have missed the best opening of the night when the normally deadly Gary Lineker wasted a chance created by John Barnes early in the second half.

Lineker, top scorer in the 1986 finals in Mexico, and Stuart Pearce, also had goals disallowed, but had England won, it would have been an injustice as the Dutch contributed much to a fine game.

For England's supporters,

involved in a series of violent incidents before the match and kept in their seats long after the final whistle, there was some satisfaction in having seen their team enjoy the best of an invigorating and skilful game.

But there were loud jeers at the end when Yugoslav referee Zoran Petrovic disallowed Pearce's injury-time strike. His free-kick beat goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen but it had been adjudged indirect.

The Dutch, particularly in the second half, produced some fine football which showed signs that they may yet be capable of recovering the form which carried them to the European title in 1988.

With Ruud Gullit at the centre of nearly everything they did and his AC Milan team-mates Van Basten and the outstanding Frank Rijkaard also performing with great purpose, the Netherlands could easily have snatched victory had Shilton not been at his most alert.

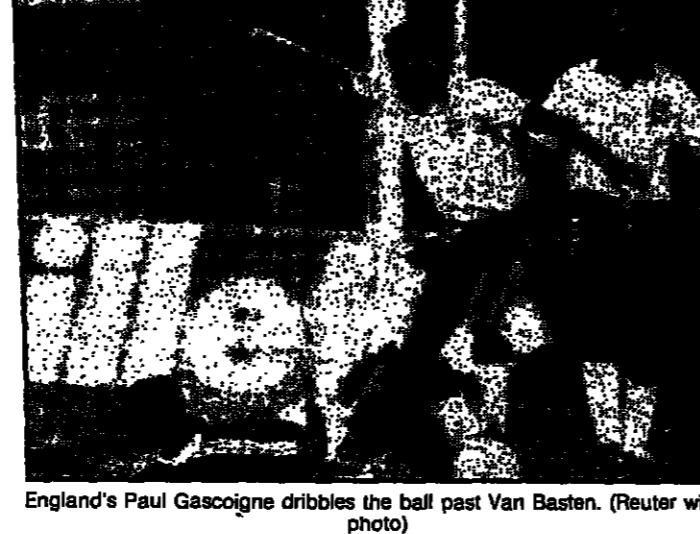
After a combative opening spell, the Dutch probably enjoyed most of the possession, but failed to break down the central English defensive trio of Walker, Terry Butcher and Mark Wright.

England captain Bryan Robson, who was later substituted by David Platt, flashed an early header wide of the post and both Chris Waddle and John Barnes had good moments.

But in the end England's failure to win was down to Lineker.



Lineker (right) watches as the ball heads towards the Dutch goal. The goal was disallowed. (Reuter wirephoto)



England's Paul Gascoigne dribbles the ball past Van Basten. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Shilton keeps another 'clean sheet'

CAGLIARI, June 17. (Reuter): England goalkeeper Peter Shilton yesterday celebrated his world record 120th international appearance in customary style — by not conceding a goal.

Shilton, 40, played with all his usual authority and excellence in the goalless World Cup Group F draw with the Netherlands, but was naturally disappointed England did not win.

"For me personally, it was a big game," he said. "I remember I got my 100th cap for England when we lost 3-1 against Holland two years ago in the European Championship finals."

"Tonight I did not want the same kind of result. We got a draw, but it would have been much better for me if we had won."

The England goalkeeper, who made his debut against East Germany in 1970, refused to comment on suggestions that the players were distracted by the violent incidents in Cagliari which preceded the game.

He said: "We came here to play football. The people who came and caused trouble are not really football fans and have nothing to do with the World Cup."

## Cameroon to show no mercy to Soviets

BARI, June 17. (Reuter): Cameroon's Russian manager Valery Nepomniachy will show no mercy to the Soviet Union when the two sides meet in a World Cup Group B match tomorrow.

Cameroon rank outsiders at the start of the tournament, are sure of a place in the second round after beating Argentina 1-0 and Romania 2-1, while the Soviet Union, once one of the most favoured teams, are likely to be eliminated after two defeats.

But Nepomniachy wants Cameroon to win or draw to take first place in the group and avoid the stronger teams in the next stage.

"Of course, my heart will be with the Soviet team, but my head will be with the Cameroon team," Nepomniachy said.

Nepomniachy, who has added discipline to a naturally talented side, said: "It will be an important game for me... after the Argentina match, I thought we had more to give. After Romania, I'm convinced we have more to give."

He has no injury worries and he faces a selection problem that would please any manager.

Cameroon did so well against Romania without first choice players Benjamin Massing.

## West Germans go for clean sweep

MILAN, June 17. (Reuter): West Germany, who set a blistering pace in their first two matches, aim to complete a hat-trick of first-round victories against Colombia on Tuesday in their impressive challenge for World Cup glory.

The West Germans are already sure of a place in the second round after overwhelming Yugoslavia 4-1 and the United Arab Emirates 5-1 and look in a class of their own in Group D.

Colombia achieved an uninspiring 2-0 win over the UAE and were beaten 1-0 by Yugoslavia but the West Germans will not take their opponents lightly.

Team chief Franz Beckenbauer has no intention of relaxing the relentless pressure which has marked West Germany out as the side the others will need to beat to win the trophy.

"We cannot afford to be beaten by Colombia. Colombia is an excellent team," he said, judging them better than Yugoslavia for stretches of their last game.

"We have certainly played convincingly. But we must recognise that we haven't played the strongest teams. We must not be casual."

## Dope tests

ROME, June 17. (Reuter): A total of 64 players were tested for doping in the first 16 World Cup matches, Fifa said yesterday. None of the tests was positive.

Under Fifa regulations two players from each team are selected at random for testing.

Argentine captain Diego Maradona was among the first players to be picked at random, Fifa said.

Kick-off: Monday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait time)

Italy will do all we can to finish in first place," Italian manager Azeglio Vicini said. "Though we have made logistical arrangements if we don't."

Italy also need a win — preferably a substantial one — to silence critics who slammed them for their narrow 1-0 victory over the Americans.

The favourites' strikers, especially Gianluca Vialli who missed a penalty against the United States, appear to be suffering from a goal jinx.

Vialli took the blame for the poor performance against the Americans. "When I missed the penalty, I heard 26 million television spectators telling me where to go," he said.

"We became very disorganized after I missed — the criticisms were all justified."



Johnson (right) is hugged by McCall after the former scored. (Reuter wirephoto)

Scottish Gordon Durie (right) outruns a Swedish defender. (Reuter wirephoto)

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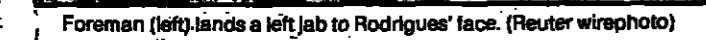
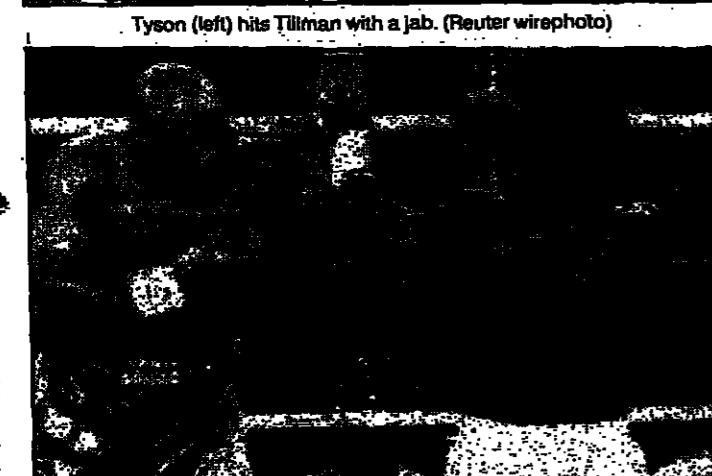
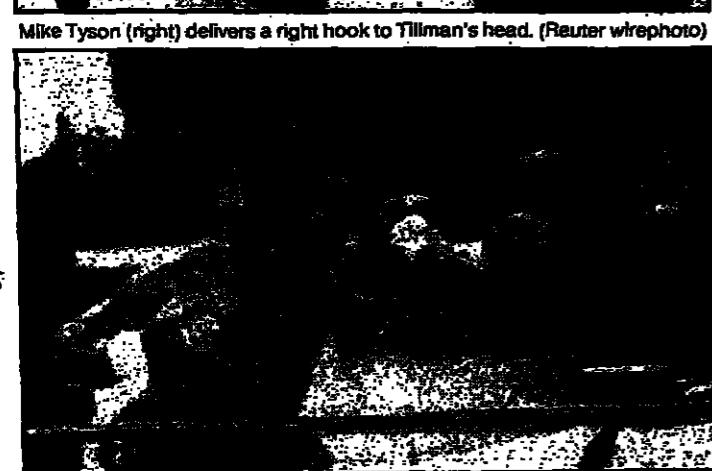
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Foreman stops Rodrigues

# Tyson KO's Tillman



LAS VEGAS, June 17, (Reuter): Mike Tyson began his comeback bid to regain the world heavyweight title with a vengeance, knocking out fellow American Henry Tillman in the first round last night.

Tillman, unranked and in just his fifth fight in the last two years, was clearly trying only to survive the onslaught from the man he had defeated twice in the 1984 Olympic boxing trials.

In the opening seconds of the scheduled 10-round bout, Tyson appeared to throw more jabs than he had in the entire fight in Tokyo last February when James "Buster" Douglas knocked him out in the 10th round to win the undisputed heavyweight crown.

Tillman essentially landed only one real punch in the fight — an overhand right flush on Tyson's face. But the former champion did not flinch and continued his pursuit.

Tyson laid Tillman out with one crushing punch — a looping right hand to the temple.

Tillman went down like a rock and barely moved, his mouthpiece hanging out as referee Richard Steele counted him out at two minutes 47 seconds of the round.

"Without a doubt, I'm the best fighter in the universe and I'm coming back to regain the title," Tyson said moments after the fight.

"I didn't have much doubt on the outcome of the fight," Tyson said.

Asked what the easy victory proved, Tyson said: "It helps my confidence. People told me this was going to be a pushover. That's when I worry. They said Buster Douglas was a pushover."

"I'm in shape and can fight anyone in the world," he said.

Tyson, 23, is expected to fight again in September — probably against Alex Stewart of Jamaica.

"You have to stay active," he said, responding to a question about his readiness to fight in September. "I want to fight as often as I can. I prefer to be more active than I have been."

On his feelings about fighting the winner of the scheduled September 21 Douglas-Evander Holyfield fight, Tyson said: "Regardless (of who wins) it will be a tough fight and after that I'll be there."

Douglas and Holyfield were both at ringside watching Tyson fight last night.

Tyson, whose record is now 38-1, landed 14 of 32 punches in his short evening's work for which he was paid about \$4 million.

The 29-year-old Tillman paid about \$37,000 to be a confidence-builder for Tyson, is now 20-3.

George Foreman's impossible dream to regain the world heavyweight title remained alive when he knocked out Adison Rodrigues in the second round of their scheduled 10-round bout last night.

Foreman, 41, set up Rodrigues with two left jabs to the head and put the Brazilian down with a straight right and a left hook.

Rodrigues, whose record fell to 36-4, had been ranked 11th by the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association.

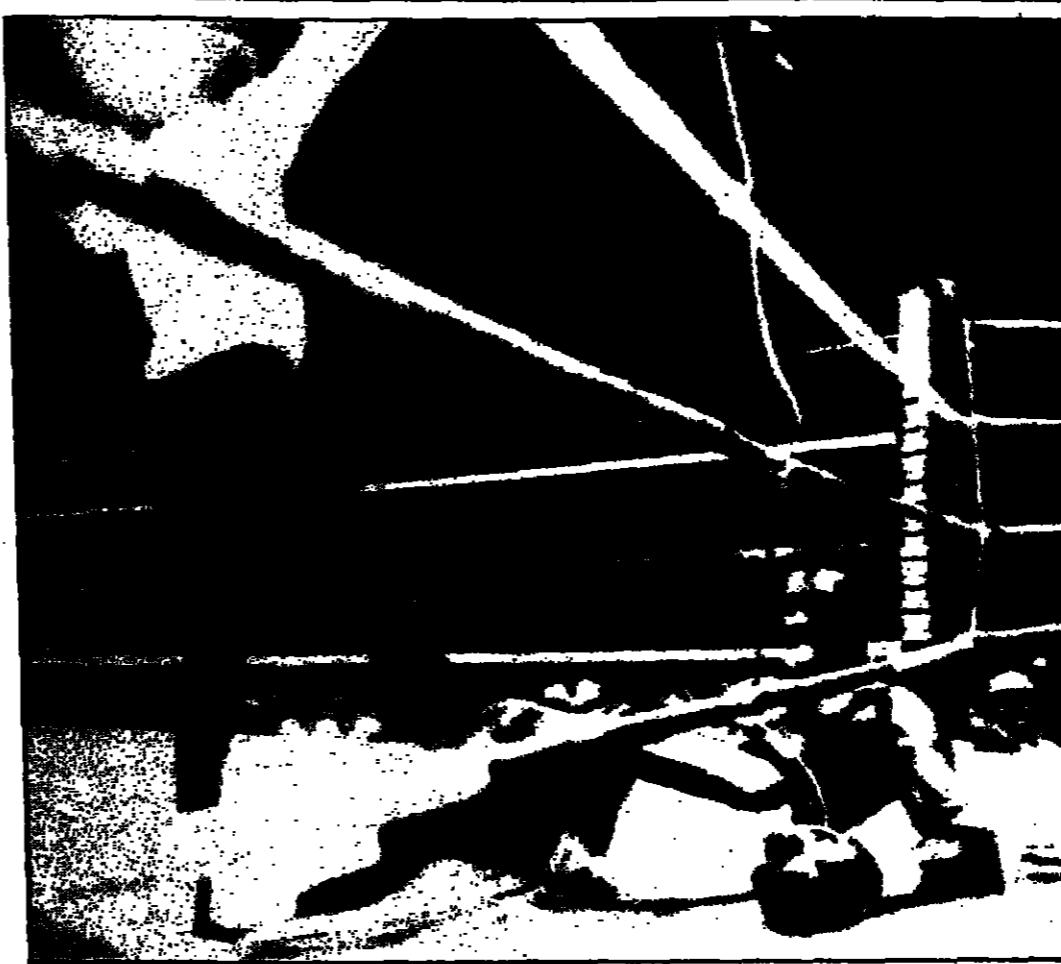
"I expected a lot more than I got," a very relaxed Foreman said afterward. "I didn't expect a quick knockout because I thought he'd be moving more than he did. I thought I'd catch up with him about the seventh round."

"When you get into the ring with an Angelo Dundee fighter, you're halfway scared because you know he's got something up his sleeve," Foreman said, referring to the legendary trainer who was in Rodrigues' corner.

Foreman is now 67-2 overall and 22-0 in the 39 months since he began his unlikely comeback bid to win the world heavyweight title he held in 1974.

Asked how he chooses his opponents these days, Foreman — always looking for a laugh at his own expense — said: "If they can whup my mother they don't go."

"As you get older, you get smarter," said Foreman who bills himself as the standard bearer for the over-40 crowd.



Tillman lies on the canvas as the referee counts him out. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Botham hits 113 to rescue Worcester

LONDON, June 17, (Reuter): Former England cricket captain Ian Botham hit his first championship century for three years yesterday to rescue Worcester against Surrey.

Botham, overlooked by England for the current Test series against New Zealand, began cautiously after going in to bat with the county champions at 22 runs for 3 wickets.

He hit two sixes and 10 fours in a stay of 221 minutes, the second 50 runs coming in just 58 minutes, before being caught by England batsman Alec Stewart off Keith Medleycot for 113.

Bad light ended play with 22 runs for 3 wickets.

Botham's last championship century was in July 1987 when he hit an unbeaten 126 against his former county Somerset.

John Stephenson smashed a career best 202 not out off Somerset to take Essex to 431 for three at close of play. It was the fourth double century by an Essex batsman this season.

Bill Athey cracked a superb 131 and England wicket-keeper Jack Russell made 98 for 5 wickets as Gloucestershire recovered from 117 for five to make 374. Sussex survived some hostile bowling to reply with 30 in making 33.

England batsman Robin Smith made 153 for Hampshire against Glamorgan at Southampton for his third county championship century of the season. Hampshire declared on 363 for eight, leaving Glamorgan on 31 for one in eight overs.

Results

At Derby: Derbyshire 408 for two (K. Barnett 131, P. Bowler 120, B. Roberts 70 not out, H. Morris 70 not out) v Warwickshire 399.

At Bath: Essex 431 for three (J. Stephenson 202 not out, P. Prijs 113, G. Gooch 72) v Somerset 400.

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At the Oval: Worcestershire 263 for seven in 92 overs (L. Botham 113, G. Hick 59) v Surrey 399.

At Hove: Gloucestershire 374 in 97 overs (J. Stephenson 131, J. Russell 98, J. Lloyd 43, I. Botham 42) v Sussex 30 for no wicket in 10 overs.

At Leicester: Middlesex 295 in 88.1 overs (D. Haynes 85, M. Ramprakash 47, W. Benjamin five for 73) v Leicestershire 38 for one in 18 overs.

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